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LD221402 [Editorial Report]

Israel

The IDF plans to adopt "tougher measures" in "Judaea and Samaria" to end the unrest, and military units will henceforth respond "more quickly and with more force" to Arab disturbances, Jerusalem radio reported. A military source said the IDF will shortly take steps to prove it is in control of the area, and this will mean more arrests, administrative detentions, and deportations. The Army's "restraint" has led Palestinian activists to wrongly believe that "anything goes," the source said. The radio noted that the new measures announced by the military authorities came after they were surprised by the scope and intensity of the general strike in Judaea and Samaria. In related remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned Palestinians that they will achieve nothing through violence and terror. While acknowledging that "fatal casualties among so-called civilians" do not help Israel's public relations, he stressed that the Palestinians will only increase their suffering by resorting to violence.

Four Arabs were killed by IDF fire during disturbances 21 December, two of them in Tubas and two in Janin, according to Jerusalem radio. Violence also flared in the Gaza Strip, where 2 IDF soldiers and 10 local inhabitants were wounded, IDF radio reported. Israeli Arabs staged demonstrations of "unprecedented scope," Jerusalem television disclosed, noting that police dispersed stone-throwing demonstrators in Nazareth and various other areas. Around 100 people were arrested during disturbances inside the Green Line, and 20 police officers were injured, Jerusalem radio reported.

In a related development, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj cancelled the traditional Christmas Eve reception for the first time in 20 years, the radio revealed.

Regarding Egypt's criticism of Israel's handling of the disturbances, the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT claimed that Egypt recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv 20 December to protest Israel's "repressive measures" against the Palestinians. However, monitored Egyptian and Israeli media have not been observed to mention the ambassador's recall.

Among other foreign responses to the disturbances, states represented on the ICO's Jerusalem Committee were invited to send their foreign ministers to an "urgent" meeting in Morocco 27 December to discuss the current situation in Jerusalem. The invitation was issued in a message from Moroccan King Hassan II, broadcast by Rabat radio.

Lebanon

The SLA performed well in repulsing the 21 December attack by "Hizballah terrorists" in the central sector of southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. However, an SLA soldier was subsequently killed and another wounded when their APC hit a mine in the area, the radio noted. Meanwhile, IDF artillery destroyed a terrorist vehicle and SLA artillery shelled enemy targets, the radio said, noting that 2 people were killed and 30 wounded in the bombardment of villages near Al-Nabatiyah. An Islamic Resistance statement cited by Beirut radio said the Israelis became "hysterical" and shelled the Al-Nabatiyah area after 25 IDF and SLA soldiers were killed or wounded in the operations by Islamic fighters. The radio described the 10-hour Israeli bombardment as the fiercest this year.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's IV Army Corps wiped out most of an Iranian force that attempted to attack Iraqi positions in the Duwayrij area early 21 December, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement to INA. The Iraqis surrounded the attacking force and subjected it to intensive fire, killing at least 1,200 Iranians. Only 13 Iraqis were killed or wounded, the spokesman added. Iraq has proved for the second time in 2 days that its defensive positions are strong and impregnable, he said, adding that Iran sustained over 3,000 casualties in both "futile adventures," whereas Iraq suffered no more than 40 casualties.

In contrast, an Iranian military statement cited by IRNA claimed that Iranian forces killed or wounded over 1,000 Iraqis and recaptured 30 sq km of Iranian soil in their attack east of the Duwayrij River, north of Faqqeh. The Iranians reportedly destroyed seven Iraqi armored vehicles and repulsed "five futile counterattacks."

In another development, IRNA cited a communique which stated that Iranian planes carried out reconnaissance missions over the Gulf and Oman Sea 20 December "despite warnings from U.S. fleets."

Jordan-USSR

King Husayn was received by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin 22 December, TASS reported. Talks began between the king and Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Moscow television announced, noting that other participants for the Soviet side included Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Defense Minister Dimitriy Yazov as well as Petr Demichev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Nikolay Talyzin, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. Prime among the topics discussed were the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict, Amman television reported. In banquet remarks cited by TASS, both the king and Gromyko stressed the two countries' firm relations

based on "mutual respect." On the subject of the disturbances in Israel, Gromyko praised the Palestinians "courageous resistance" and termed it "vivid testimony that Israel's 'iron fist' policy has no prospects." King Husayn replied that the "uprising" is a "natural reaction" of a people "languishing under the occupation regime."

The Israeli paper HA'ARETZ disclosed that Jerusalem is "deeply concerned" over the Jordanian king's visit to Moscow, adding that "senior government officials" have expressed the fear that he might sign a contract to purchase MIG-29's.

Egypt

Saudi Crown Prince's Visit—President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah for talks on the "latest developments" in the Arab arena and the Mideast, as well as the Gulf war, MENA reported. In arrival remarks cited by the agency, the crown prince praised Egypt as a "bastion of Arabism and Islam," and he stressed that "Arab solidarity" is the "axis" of Saudi policy.

Alexandria Casualties—An explosion at a military warehouse in the Mina' al-Basal area of Alexandria caused fire and fumes that killed 6 people and injured 445, MENA reported. The warehouse contained "nonpoisonous smoke canisters" of the type used to create a smokescreen during military training exercises and maneuvers, Cairo radio disclosed. The station announced that the situation returned to "normal" after the fire fighters extinguished the blaze, which was caused by "spontaneous combustion." According to JANA, however, Egyptian "revolutionaries" blew up the building which contained "chemical weapons and poison gas" belonging to the U.S. 6th Fleet. Libyan medical personnel stand ready to go to Alexandria in aid of the Egyptian people, the agency declared.

Libya

Chadian Charges Denied—In a statement carried by JANA 22 December, the Foreign Liaison Bureau denied Chad's "false claim" that FANT clashed with Libyan forces at the Sudanese border 19 December. The statement reiterated that there are no Libyan troops in Sudan and stressed that Libya continues to comply with OAU resolutions.

Soviet Special Envoy—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud received Soviet special envoy M.D. Sytenko, who briefed him on the Washington summit as well as on the USSR's "principled position" regarding regional conflicts, TASS reported, noting that bilateral issues were also discussed.

PDRY

YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid welcomed a Soviet delegation led by Karen Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the International Department, who delivered a message from the Soviet leadership, Aden radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Hassan Invites Jerusalem Committee to Rabat

LD212123 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Following the bloody events in the occupied Arab territories, and holy Jerusalem in particular, His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, has sent a message to the kings, presidents, and amirs of the committee's member-states, inviting them to convene an urgent meeting of this committee in Morocco on 27 December at the level of foreign ministers. His majesty's message says that this meeting will study the existing situation in holy Jerusalem and will adopt whatever efforts and resolutions are compatible with our affiliation with the Islamic community. The following is the text of his majesty's message:

Priase be to God, and peace and blessings be on God's prophet. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

The bloody events in the occupied Arab territories, and holy Jerusalem in particular, compel everyone who belongs to Islam to work seriously to condemn the bloody events and to work to put an end to them publicly and officially.

With regard to all this, we, as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, invite your foreign ministers to an urgent meeting. At this meeting, we will study the existing situation in holy Jerusalem and adopt whatever endeavors and resolutions are compatible with our affiliation with the Islamic community and with international truth, whose standpoints must be clear and sound without favoritism or bias.

For all these reasons, we send you our invitation to a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco which will begin Sunday, 27 December 1987. Please, dear brothers, accept the most sincere expressions of friendship and consideration.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Updates West Bank, Gaza Casualties

JN191509 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described the decision made by President Saddam Husayn to take care of the families of the martyrs of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine as a noble and blessed gesture.

In a statement to INA, he said that this decision sincerely reflects the deep pan-Arab cohesion binding Iraq and the Palestinian revolution. Yasir 'Arafat asserted that treating the Palestinian uprising's martyrs in a manner similar to the treatment received by the martyrs of the battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah is a confirmation of the fact that the Palestinian revolutionaries and the Iraqi fighters are battling the Arab nation's racist historic enemies; namely, the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime. He noted that the all-encompassing popular uprising in occupied Palestine embodies the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness on their land, their adherence to their pan-Arab identity, and their rejection of occupation. He said that it also demonstrates their firm stand to confront the occupiers and their struggle for the sake of regaining their legitimate rights.

'Arafat reported that the Palestinian masses have so far offered 51 martyrs, 472 wounded persons, and 5,000 prisoners in their uprising. He added that the Zionist enemy has lost its senses. He affirmed that it is perpetrating a large-scale terrorism campaign against our people in the usurped homeland with planes, armored vehicles, weapons, and internationally-banned gas bombs. He stated that this enemy is killing, detaining, and torturing children, old people, and youths, noting that the ongoing Palestinian uprising has continued unabated for 12 days. He said that the uprising reached its height yesterday following the Friday prayers held at holy Al-Aqsa and in the Gaza Strip, Nabulus, Janin, Hebron, Dayr al-Balah, Jericho, Bi'r Zayt, and Ramallah.

Interviewed on Events

JN211611 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by News Director Antoine Nawfal; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] It is an eventful day in the occupied land, in south Lebanon, and inside Israel. Today is your day, so to speak, Abu 'Ammar. What is the significance of this day?

['Arafat] I am proud to note that the description applies equally to the entire Arab homeland. The Arab League called for a minute's silence in solidarity with the uprising and in mourning for the dead and the martyrs. As for my beloved, steadfast people, who are hurling stones and defying the occupiers with their bare chests and faith, I would like to tell them that they embody the Arab nation's pride. I would like to tell them that they and we have an appointment soon, when our Palestinian flag is unfurled over the churches and minarets of Jerusalem, the capital of our sacred Palestinian state.

I am saying this because our children, women, and men are teaching this arrogant Zionist enemy a lesson every day. They are facing the most up-to-date American weapons with stones, with their bare chests and iron will. I am telling them: We are marching together and the flag you are raising in Rafah, Khan Yunus, Gaza, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem, Bi'r Zayt, Ramallah, Janin, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, Galilee, the Triangle, and Lebanon will be flown in Jerusalem, God willing.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, it is being said that there is no political solution at present. What do you expect in light of current events? And do you think these events may recur?

['Arafat] They will recur; there is a Palestinian decision and will for these waves to continue one after the other until we have wrested our rights in order for blood to triumph over the sword. We must bear in mind that the combined might of the American and French Armies failed to conquer the Vietnamese people. We must likewise bear in mind that for all its tyranny, Nazism failed to conquer the European peoples. Even the all-powerful British colonialism was defeated by the American people. The will of the peoples comes from the will of God. Therefore, the will of peoples cannot be beaten. It is bound to triumph.

Don't forget, and I'm telling this to our people: All these forces, the masses, Arab and international bodies and organizations, nonaligned countries, socialist countries, European, African, Muslim countries, and even the pope, whom I now salute, and who yesterday remembered the anguished Palestinians, and denounced what is being done against them. [sentence as heard] I say that given such friends on the local, regional, and international levels, our people are bound to emerge victorious and realize their goals of repatriation, self-determination, and a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Nawfal] As a matter of fact, Abu 'Ammar, all of the reactions this time favor the Palestinian people: Egypt has voiced its objection; the EC charged its president with passing on its concern about what is happening to the appropriate quarters; French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac yesterday called for negotiations under internationally accepted terms. Do you support such negotiations, and what do you propose?

['Arafat] And under international protection...

[Nawfal, interrupting] Under international protection, yes.

['Arafat] Before I move to this, I would like to remind my kinfolk and my beloved, our children, women, and elderly, that the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, led by Sharon and Begin, intimidated neither the Lebanese nor the Palestinian people. Likewise, the massacres of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, led by Shamir and Rabin, have not intimidated the Palestinian people. As for Chirac's proposal, I would like to salute him for his interest, as indeed I do all of our friends who are now expressing support for us at the UN Security Council.

We raised three points at the Security Council: human rights, political rights, and international protection by way of preparations along the road to an international conference. This is needed for the sake of recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, through this international conference, and the establishment of our independent state.

[Nawfal] But in the meantime, what can the UN Security Council do to get around a U.S. veto against a denunciation of Israel?

['Arafat] They have been shuttling back and forth to us, asking that we delete this word or add that word. Let everyone listen to what I told them: Either the UN General Assembly passes a hard-hitting resolution of denunciation or practical measures or we would be better off without one. We are not begging a resolution from the United States. Let this be understood by all. We have on our side the whole world; the free and honorable people of the whole world.

Let the generals in our occupied land answer Reagan, who chose this particular time to conclude with the Israeli prime minister this agreement. Under this agreement, Israel is given equal status with NATO nations, as if he is rewarding it for its crimes against our children, women, and people. I tell President Reagan and, more particularly, the American people, as well as world public opinion, that our children, women, and men are being slaughtered with American weapons. However, our people will triumph as have all the other peoples. This steel will, this faith, will inevitably triumph: Blood will triumph over the sword.

[Nawfal] Thanks, Abu 'Ammar.

PLO's 'Arafat on Israel-Iran 'Coordination'

JN181538 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[By Liqa' Makki]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that it is no coincidence that this escalation in the Zionist policy of repression against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is accompanied by the Iranian regime's intention to launch a new offensive on Iraq. In an exclusive statement to the international edition of AL-THAWRAH, 'Arafat said that coordination between Tehran and Tel Aviv has been very clear in the past. He recalled that the first battle, east of Al-Basrah, coincided with the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the siege of Beirut.

We also recall that the battles of the Great Day and the Great Harvest coincided with the siege of Palestinian camps by Israel's agents, 'Arafat noted. He affirmed that this means that while Iraq is defending the east flank of the Arab homeland, the Palestinian people are fighting against the Zionist onslaught. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tunis From Baghdad

LD210730 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis yesterday from Baghdad after a visit to Iraq, during which he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and a number of officials. They discussed the latest developments in Arab and Palestinian affairs, as well as the Iraq-Iran war.

PFLP's Habash Comments on West Bank, Gaza

JN211720 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] At a press conference held at PFLP headquarters in Damascus at noon today, Dr George Habash announced his position and that of the PFLP on the uprising in the occupied homeland. He said that struggle will continue until occupation ends and the Palestinian people regain their right to freedom, self-determination, and an independent state. He added that there should be action to pave the way for attaining goals, liberation, and independence. He also affirmed that there are duties to be carried out. He said: These Arab and international duties should be carried out to strengthen the confrontation because the Palestinian people will win the battle of freedom only through a cohesion of struggle with the Arab and international struggle.

Habash stressed the need to reinforce the unity of the PLO and to have the other factions join. Asked about Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo next Saturday, he said: I hope 'Arafat will not make such a mistake at this critical time. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Abbas on Uprising, Peace Conference

JN212301 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas has asserted that the current popular uprising in the occupied territory is the most prominent uprising by the Palestinian people there for more than 20 years. He said that this uprising has affirmed that the Israeli occupation is useless and that the uprising will be effective both on an international level and within the Israeli entity itself.

During a news conference held at the PLO office in Doha at noon today, which was carried by QNA, he urged the Arab and Islamic worlds to move quickly and to extend the necessary material, political, and moral support for the continuation of this uprising and the achievement of just Palestinian rights. He pointed to the positive international reaction to this uprising.

There is now more serious talk about the importance of holding an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue, foremost being the Palestinian people's cause, he said.

The Palestinian official stressed the need for all concerned parties to agree on convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He pointed out that PLO officials are not optimistic over the convening of such a conference. They are, however, more optimistic about the possibility of reaching a just solution to the Palestinian people's cause.

'Abbas said it was agreed with Egyptian officials that Arab representation at this conference be collective and not individual on condition that the PLO have the status of a full partner in the conference. Mahmud 'Abbas once again refused to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242, which deals with the Palestinian question as one of refugees. However, he asserted that the PLO will accept this resolution if it is amended to mention the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He pointed out that a Palestinian delegation is expected to visit Jordan at the beginning of next month to discuss how to deal frankly between the two parties and how to reach an agreement without preconditions. He said that contacts with Syria have been continuing for approximately (?4 months) and that they are not negative ones; they need time if they are to help clear inter-Arab relations.

'Abbas reported that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had asserted to him during his recent visit to Egypt that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat can visit Egypt at any time he sets. He pointed out that his visit also dealt with the situation of the Gaza Strip Palestinians living in Egypt, as well as the importance of holding political coordination for an international conference. He said Egyptian officials responded well to these issues.

The Palestinian official revealed that Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Soviet Union in [words indistinct] January. He also said that there are numerous contacts and draft agreements between the PLO and the Amal Movement aimed at reaching a comprehensive solution and agreement on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

HADASHOT Interviews PLO UN Official

TA201031 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Dec 87 p 19

[Telephone interview with Dr Riyad Mansur, head of the PLO's observer delegation to the United Nations, by an unidentified HADASHOT correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: How do you view the Westernization of the United Nations?

Answer: I would not lump Israel, the United States, and Europe together. Israel was isolated in many votes in the current General Assembly session. To wit, the vote in UNRWA on the rights of refugees, which was supported by the United States, leaving Israel alone, and the vote on terrorism in the sixth committee, in which Israel was alone in voting against the motion with the United States abstaining.

Question: Israel views this vote as a victory. Syria was forced to withdraw its original motion.

Answer: The Syrians should not have raised the motion in the first place. They did so for political reasons within Syria and because they wanted to gain regional influence in the Middle East. The end result, however, was that Israel stood alone in voting against the final version of the motion.

Question: Are there signs of moderation in the United States?

Answer: The Americans have developed a tough offensive policy. One manifestation of this is the attack on Waldheim. I believe that the Americans knew about his past all along, so why did they decide to attack him at this specific juncture? I have noticed a measure of U.S. moderation over the past 12 months. I have also noticed that they are trying to gain more influence. One example of this is the change in their attitude over the past 18 months toward an international conference on the Middle East. The reason for this change is that some elements of the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government accept this idea.

The United States has also evinced a more flexible stand on South Africa. The nonaligned countries have noticed the change and it has affected their votes. Another phenomenon is the new way of thinking seen in the Soviet Union and the new detente felt there.

Question: Are there any changes in the coalition between Arab and African countries?

Answer: In Al-Nasir's time, the ties were even stronger. Since its rise, the PLO has become a bridge between Arabs and Africa.

Question: Can you describe the attempt to close your office?

Answer: This was a reflection of the influence of the Zionist lobby on Congress. The administration opposes this move. By a vast majority, the UN sixth committee decided to preserve the status quo: 115 countries voted for the motion, the United States was absent during the vote, and Israel alone voted against it. This was a tremendous victory.

Question: What was your chief goal in the current General Assembly session?

Answer: To promote the idea of an international conference as it was raised in the United Nations, under the aegis of the five permanent members of the Security Council and with full, equal participation of the PLO. In the vote on this we succeeded in moving six other countries toward our side. This, too, was a victory.

Another diplomatic victory was scored at the Amman summit, where, despite the decision to devote the deliberations only to the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian issue was raised. We also managed to raise the issue of the international conference.

Reportage on Anti-Israeli Combat Operations

PFLP Claims Clash

JN181532 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] We have just received a report from the PFLP that a unit of its fighters clashed with Israeli forces and South Lebanese Army [SLA] militias at the crossing gate near the township of Al-Khiyam in southern Lebanon today. The PFLP said that the clash is still going on and that many Israeli soldiers were either killed or wounded in the fighting. It also reported that two of its fighters were martyred.

For its part, Israeli radio said a clash took place near the township of Al-Khiyam between SLA militias and an armed group. The radio added that the clash resulted in the death of two members of the armed group and one SLA militiman and the wounding of four SLA militiamen. The helicopter-backed Israeli forces interfered in the battle to support the SLA.

'Combat Group' Detonates Bomb

JN202013 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1831 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Communique by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Our Palestinian people's heroic uprising has been continuing throughout the occupied homeland for the 13th consecutive day. Our heroic people have the will to continue their resistance to and confrontation of the occupation forces. In support of the uprising, and proceeding from this will, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland detonated a remote-controlled bomb under a Zionist military vehicle in the occupied city of Jerusalem today. The explosion destroyed the vehicle and killed or wounded all of its occupants. Our combat group returned safely to base. Revolution until victory!

Israeli Military Bus Attacked

JN212037 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1818 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Communique by a military spokesman of the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] To support our Palestinian people's courageous uprising and to escalate armed struggle, our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland used machineguns and hand grenades to attack a Zionist military vehicle while it was passing on the road between 'Afula and (Al-Khudayrah). This attack was done pursuant to a decision by the Palestinian Revolution Command. The vehicle was damaged and its occupants were killed or wounded as a result. The enemy radio admitted the attack but, as usual, concealed its losses. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

FLN Political Bureau Relieves Hadj Yala

LD212311 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The 19th session of the FLN Central Committee ended at the Palace of Nations this evening. The meetings were chaired by the head of state. The participants adopted two resolutions on the results of the activities of the party and on general policy. At the close of the session, M'Hamed Hadj Yala was relieved of his duties as member of the FLN Central Committee Political Bureau.

The session held this afternoon continued the general debate on questions connected with economic, social, and cultural development. Here is Nasira Sherid:

The 19th session of the Central Committee began this morning with a reading of the report on the results of the activities of the party, and a report on the draft action program of the party, the mass organizations, and trade unions. A report on the use of the national language was also presented. [passage omitted]

Chad

Final Communique Issued at UDEAC Summit

AB201211 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Dec 87

["Final communique" issued in Ndjamena on 19 December at the conclusion of the 23d summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa; read by Ambroise Foalem, the organization's secretary general]

[Excerpts] The council of heads of state of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] met for its 23d ordinary session from 18 to 19 December 1987 in Ndjamena. It was chaired by His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic and head of state, founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, UNIR, and current chairman of the council of heads of state for 1987. The foreign minister of Sao Tome and Principe, representing His Excellency Manuel Pinto da Costa, attended the deliberations of the council as an observer.

The council adopted initiatives and decisions on issues submitted for its action by the (?mediation) commission of the council of ministers responsible for agriculture, stockbreeding, (?fishing), mineral resources [words indistinct]. This aims at promoting greater cooperation between member states, and at strengthening the bonds of solidarity and brotherhood among them. To this end, the representatives took measures for creating a Community of Livestock, Meat, and Fishing, CBVIRHA-UDEA; the adoption of the draft agreement on the creation of a community reinsurance company, UDEAC-RE; the modification of the organizational chart of the Development Bank of Central African States, BDEAC; the deadline for the (?submission) of documents for examination by the highest body of the union; the permanent orientation course for cadres of the posts and telecommunications services of member states; the creation of a legal basis to compel companies recognized under the single tax system to provide information on their activities; and the adoption of the budget of the union for 1988.

The council decided to continue studying the cultural aspect of development and research on sociological phenomena that impede economic progress. Decisions were also made on cooperation between the airlines of member states; the creation of a national organization to tap the scientific and technological potential of each member state; and subregional technical cooperation on population matters. [passage omitted]

The council noted the current progress made on the subregional satellite communication project, the engineering school for telecommunications, and the creation of a subregional school for veterinary science. It also issued the necessary directives to the secretariat general for the rapid realization of these projects.

The council then heard a report from the governor of the Bank of Central African States. It heard reports from the chairman of the board of directors of the Development Bank of Central African States, BDEAC; the Subregional Institute [words indistinct] of Applied Technology, Planning, and Project Evaluation, ISTA; and the subregional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, ISEA. The council additionally heard a report from the secretary general of the Organization for Coordination in the Control of Major Endemic Diseases in Central Africa, OCEAC, and from the chairman of the Federation of Consular Chambers of Central Africa.

The council reelected Ambroise Ngoye as deputy secretary of the UDEAC for another 3-year term of office. [applause] It then expressed its deep concern over the persistent state of war prevailing in Chad, and expressed its hope that the ongoing initiatives under the auspices of the OAU succeed. This is so that this brotherly country, after recovering its occupied territory and being able to live in peace, can actively participate in developing central Africa and the entire African Continent. The council gave its strong and firm support to the proposals made by the recent OAU summit on debt, and especially on the principle of convening a meeting between African states and their creditors. It reaffirmed its condemnation of the hideous system of apartheid in southern Africa. It called on the international community to redouble its efforts to help the Frontline States cope with this sinister system, and to take mandatory sanctions against the racists of Pretoria. [passage omitted]

The next council of heads of state of the UDEAC will take place in Yaounde in December 1988.

Issued in Ndjamena on 19 December 1987.

Egypt

Ambassador Reportedly Recalled From Tel Aviv

PM211507 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 87 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Recalls Its Ambassador From Tel Aviv"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau, Kuwait, Amman, occupied Jerusalem, agencies—The Egyptian Government yesterday recalled its ambassador in Tel Aviv to protest against Israel's repressive measures currently being implemented against the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories. Today the Arab peoples will declare complete solidarity with the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

An Egyptian Government official has stated that the recall of the ambassador, which took place after a strongly worded statement was issued the day before yesterday, was for the purpose of consultation on the deteriorating situation and Israel's intransigent stand against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni is expected to remain in the Egyptian capital for some time in order to put pressure on Israel to stop its current aggressive practices.

Egypt recalled its ambassador after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and after the Sabra and Shatila massacres in 1982. [passage omitted]

Students Call for Israeli Envoy's Expulsion

NC211820 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] In Egypt, the 'Ayn Shams University students have demonstrated to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people, calling for severing Egyptian-Israeli relations and expelling the Israeli ambassador from Cairo. [In a similar report, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1645 GMT notes that 500 students demonstrated at 'Ayn Shams University]

Situation 'Normal' After Warehouse Explosion

NC211400 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Dense smoke was reported to be billowing this morning from a warehouse used by the Armed Forces in the Al-Wardiyan area of Mina' al-Basal District in Alexandria. Some citizens in the neighborhood have suffered from asphyxiation, due to the density of the fumes, and have been admitted to hospitals to receive the necessary medical treatment.

The Alexandria governor, the commander of the northern military zone, and other senior officials immediately went to the area of the warehouse, where they closely followed up the efforts being made by the Alexandria fire service, the civil defense, and the Armed Forces to provide first aid and to stop the fumes from rising. The Alexandria governor stated that the warehouse contains nonpoisonous smoke canisters. There are no explosives or munitions in the warehouse, and the situation is completely under control, he said.

A responsible source has stated that the smoke produced by the canisters in the warehouse is the same type as that used as a screen by soldiers in training exercises and military maneuvers. The combustible nature of the fumes caused the density of smoke, resulting in the asphyxiation cases in the adjacent areas, the source added, stating that the situation is now back to normal.

6 Dead, 445 Injured

NC211841 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—The number of people injured by the fumes rising as a result of the incident that occurred at a military site in the Mina' al-Basal area of Alexandria this morning totals 410 civilians and 35 military personnel. All have received the necessary medical treatment and have left the hospitals, except for 50 of them, who are in good condition and will leave the hospital later. Six citizens died as a result of the incident. [passage omitted]

According to medical reports, which the Ministry of Health has received from Alexandria, the health situation there is reassuring. There is no danger to the public health because the fumes do not contain any poisonous substances. As for those injured, they are merely cases of (?asphyxiation) that are being treated by doses of oxygen. [passage omitted]

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives, Makes Statement

NC211647 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Egypt. While in Cairo, the Saudi crown prince will hold talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the current Arab situation and the important issues of the region.

His highness was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, deputy prime ministers, ministers, and some of the Arab ambassadors in Cairo. His highness the Saudi prince was accorded an official reception ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah.

In an arrival statement, Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that Egypt was, and still is, the bastion of Arabism and Islam. He stated: Opinions may vary, governments may change, and relations may falter, but the ties of fraternity remain stronger than any opinions, differences, or relations maintained under certain traditions or norms. He praised Egypt's Arabism and expressed optimism over the Arab homeland's ability to rise above differences and overcome difficulties. He added: In light of this conviction, we have always taken up the Arab solidarity issue as the axis of our policy, for we are confident that a homeland united in its will and deed can achieve its sublime objectives. He expressed confidence that the crises, storms, and challenges facing the Arab world will mobilize the homeland's latent powers. In conclusion, Prince 'Abd al-'Aziz lauded the struggle of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi hosted a lunch in honor of His Highness Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his accompanying delegation at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah. The banquet was attended by a number of deputy prime ministers, as well as Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and state minister for administrative development, who heads the Egyptian honor mission accompanying the Saudi prince.

Meets With Mubarak

NC211730 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, at the Presidential Palace this evening. MENA has learned that President Mubarak's talks with the Saudi crown prince dealt with the latest developments in the Arab world and the Middle East issue, as well as the Gulf war. The talks also covered some other important international issues.

Leaves for Amman 22 Dec

NC221125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon for Amman. During his stay in Cairo, the prince met twice with President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Zairian Defense Official Arrives in Cairo

NC191859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Likulia Bolonbo, Zairian secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he will give President Muhammad Husni Mubarak a message from Zairian President Sese Seko Mobutu. Central Zone Commander Major General Faruq 'Abd al-'Azim and staff members from the Zairian Embassy met the Zairian official at the airport.

Tomorrow morning, Sunday, official talks between Egypt and Zaire will take place at the Defense Ministry offices in Nasr City. The talks will be preceded by an official welcome ceremony for the Zairian minister.

It is known that President Mobutu holds the defense portfolio in addition to his position as president.

Military Talks Begin

NC201043 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Military talks between Egypt and Zaire began here this morning. The Egyptian delegation is led by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and the Zairian delegation by Likulia Bolonbo, Zairian secretary of state for national defense and territorial security. The talks centered on ways to bolster bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military field. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC210855 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0823 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Likulia Bolombo, Zairian secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and the Zairian ambassador in Cairo. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, the Zairian official said that he had given President Mubarak two messages from Zairian President Sese Seko Mobutu, one written and one verbal, in connection with bilateral relations. He added that the importance of bilateral cooperation was underlined at the meeting and good relations between the two countries in the military field were noted.

Official Departs 22 Dec

NC221040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Likulia Bolombo, Zairian secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning following a 4-day stay in Egypt.

During the visit, Bolombo met with President Husni Mubarak and handed him two messages on bilateral issues from Zairian President Sese Seko Mobuto. He also held talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on ways to cement relations and military cooperation between the two countries.

French Minister Arrives for Economic Talks

NC191758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Edouard Balladur, France's minister of state in charge of economy, finance, and privatization, arrived in Cairo today for a visit of a few days. He will hold talks with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, on ways to bolster economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Dr Yusri Mustafa met the French visitor at the airport.

Confers With Sidqi

NC201606 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Edouard Balladur, French minister of state in charge of economy, finance, and privatization, in his office today. The meeting was attended by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade. Prime Minister Sidqi stated that he and the French minister had reviewed bilateral relations in the wake of concluding a financial protocol and rescheduling the debts between the two countries. He added that the French official had stressed his country's support for Egypt's position vis-a-vis the international financial organizations. The French official also expressed France's understanding of and appreciation for Egypt's economic reform procedures. Egypt's relations with the IMF were also reviewed during the session.

In another development, Dr 'Atif Sidqi stated that the ongoing talks which Egypt is holding for reschduling its debts are proceeding satisfactorily. He noted that all the relevant agreements in this respect will be concluded by next February.

Holds Meeting With Mubarak

NC210841 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Edouard Balladur, French minister of state in charge of economy, finance and privatization, at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and trade, and French ambassador in Cairo Pierre Hunt. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Comments on Meeting

NC211111 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Following today's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Edouard Balladur, French minister of state in charge of economy, finance, and privatization, Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, said that the meeting dealt with a number of issues, the most important of which was the economic situation following the agreement with the IMF. He noted in this respect that the French minister will meet with the IMF executive director in Paris next week. Mustafa pointed out that an offer was made at the meeting to extend French assistance to Egypt in financial and banking affairs. Discussions also covered a number of political issues, including the Middle East situation and the Gulf war.

The French minister disclosed that in addition to the subjects discussed at the meeting, agreement was reached to bring some French financial affairs experts to Egypt to cooperate with Egyptian experts.

Concludes Visit 22 Dec

NC220711 Cairo MENA in English 0643 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, Dec 22 (MENA)—French Deputy Premier and Minister of Economy Edouard Balladur left here this morning for Aswan, Upper Egypt, on a visit to the city's tourist and archeological sights. Balladur will leave Aswan for home.

President Husni Mubarak has received Balladur and discussed with him French aid to Egypt in the domains of banking and financial affairs. They also tackled a number of political issues, mainly the Mideast conflict and the Gulf war.

Kenyan Information Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC191643 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Kenyan Information Minister Noah Katana Ngala this morning at the Presidential Offices in Heliopolis. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and the Kenyan ambassador in Cairo were also present at the meeting.

After the meeting, Al-Sharif said that the Kenyan information minister had given President Mubarak a message from the Kenyan president on bilateral ties. The message outlined Kenya's views on certain African issues. In return, President Mubarak gave the Kenyan minister a message in which he expressed his own views on these same issues.

President Mubarak, Al-Sharif said, renewed his invitation to the Kenyan president to visit Egypt. Mubarak also stressed the importance of news media cooperation between the two countries. He commended the ongoing cooperation among African information ministers and pointed out that Egypt and Kenya share the same opinions on numerous issues. Both countries, Mubarak said, believe in peace, good-neighborliness, a strong OAU role, and cooperation in matters related to development.

Al-Sharif said that Egypt and Kenya have agreed on general outlines for cooperation in radio and television affairs. He added that Egypt intends to agree to a Kenyan request that a MENA office be opened in Kenya.

For his part, the Kenyan information minister said that bilateral relations were discussed in the meeting. He expressed the hope that an agreement on cooperation between the information ministries of the two countries would be signed in the near future.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC200707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Kenyan Information Minister Noah Katana Ngala left Cairo for home early today at the end of a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Notes Egyptian 'Rebels' Blow Up Depots

LD221125 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Dec (JANA)—The Libyan Arab Red Crescent and the People's Committee for Health have affirmed that they have placed their teams of doctors in a state of readiness to work in Alexandria and to help the Egyptian people in the disaster that has befallen them as a result of the Egyptian rebels' blowing up of the U.S. 6th Fleet's chemical weapons and poison gas depots.

Editor on Egyptian Paper's Call for War

LD211202 Tripoli JANA in English 1054 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-AKHBAR Egyptian newspaper, the voice of the Egyptian regime, urged the regime to wage a direct military war against the Great Jamahiriyah saying, in an article by its editor-in-chief, that the time has come to deal a direct military blow to Libya.

JANA's Political Editor commented on that by saying:-

"1st. What was published in AL-AKHBAR Egyptian newspaper is an explicit declaration of a call for war against the Great Jamahiriyah, from a paper which expresses the views of the Egyptian regime. The latter, by being silent, expresses its approval of the call.

2nd. The timing of the call coincides with Zionist Airforce penetrating our eastern borders under the umbrella of the Egyptian aeroplanes and the American Sixth Fleet's aeroplanes. It also came at a time when the Sixth Fleet is carrying out exercises at a number of Egyptian ports, so what was published amounts to an American-Zionist threat in an Egyptian dialect, which may form a basis for a triangular attack on the Great Jamahiriyah.

3rd. We link the threat to former revelations by American media regarding American plans to invade the Libyan Arab land using the Egyptian regime as the spear head and a cross bridge. We regard that as preparation for the eminent attack from the east trying to fulfil what the Atlantic forces' failed to achieve from the north and south.

4th. We warned many times that the Egyptian Army after it was forced to withdraw from the war front with the Zionist enemy, following the Camp David agreements, was reliefed [as received] completely to be thrown into wars that serve these agreements, especially after the noticeable increase in American and Zionist influence in Egypt which crept through many ranks of the Egyptian Army. So that proves, what we formerly stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah has become a direct front of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

5th. To select such a time to bring about wars with the Jamahiriyah, and to create tension on her borders, can not be non-intentional. It was meant as a cover up for the masses' uprise in the occupied land and the explosive situation there, and to divert the attention of the Egyptian Arab people away from their main problems created in the first place by the complete surrender of Egypt to the enemy and the seizure of her will by the Americans and the Zionists. It is also no sheer coincidence that the threat to attack comes at a time when the land of Al-Fatih the great is witnessing a series of genuine meetings leading in the way of achieving pan Arab unity".

Shall we, the political editor asked, take the governmental newspaper's call to fight Libya militarily as a conscious awakening and an act of gratitude to the Libyan Arab people who stood with their financial, spiritual resources by the side of sisterly Egypt during her dark days facing the American-Zionist attack or is it that the Egyptian regime wants to show us the early fruits of resuming its relations with some Arab regimes.

As to the vulgar expressions, the editor concluded, and the nasty words of the official governmental newspaper which resemble the talk of a group of addicts on hashish, we leave the subject of valuating it and the judgement about it to the Arab individual. But what we like to draw the attention to is the fact that such expressions remind us of the same expressions which the traitor Al-Sadat used to boast about prior to his final silencing and putting to the grave.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Denies Clashes With Chad

LD221111 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Dec (JANA)—In response to Njdamena's claims that clashes have taken place between its forces and Libyan forces on the Sudanese borders, a source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has stated the following:

First: In confirmation of its earlier stand, the Jamahiriyah denies the existance of any Libyan forces in Sudan. It also denies the occurrence of any clashes between elements of a force belonging to Libya and what Ndjamena communiques call Chadian forces.

Second: What Ndjamena calls the Islamic Corps is nothing but a false claim made to cover up the real, current clashes between the forces of the First Army—Frolinat—in the east and the center of Chad, and the insurgent movement led by the Al-Hajariyah and Al-Salamat tribes in these areas, and the forces of Ndjamena.

Third: The Jamhiriyah still abides by the OAU resolutions and the efforts of the good-offices committee, and stresses that it invites the OAU president and the chairman of the committee to ascertain, by the means they deem adequate, the untruthfulness of these claims.

Fourth: Ndjamena was disappointed when it realized that its political blackmail and false claims caused no response from neighboring states.

The Sudanese foreign minister, Brother Hasan Taj al-Din, in his latest announcement, affirmed that Chad's claims about the presence of Libyan forces or an Islamic Corps in the Sudanese territories are baseless.

Proceeding from this reality, Ndjamena found no alternative but to continue to practice the language of lies and of fabricating events, to continue to aggravate the situation and undermine the efforts of the OAU, and to serve the enemies of peace and stability in Africa, the first of whom are those who occupy the seats of power in Chad's capital.

Foreign Liaison Bureau on Palestinian Uprising

LD211946 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau saluted the uprising of Arab masses in the occupied land.

In the bureau's statement issued today: "[From] the bloody events witnessed in the past weeks in the occupied Palestine and the ugly crimes committed by the Zionist enemy to face such events, emerge the following facts:

First: The true aim of [the] Zionist enemy which had occupied Palestine and other parts of the Arab homeland unsettling its people—is to end Arab existence itself and not only occupying the land.

Second: The Zionist enemy—in the process of achieving its goals—is not concerned about using any means. Its continued aggression, its killing of unarmed population, its snub to world public opinion and its contempt of others' sacred places are but examples and proofs of its hateful racist behaviour.

Third: The racist nature of the enemy and the reality of its goals make the only option for the Arab nation to confront it is armed struggle to which the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah drawn the attention to always. [sentence as received] That was represented in its stress upon the nationalism of the battle and rejection of the defeatist solutions. Maybe, the outcome of the David Stable treaty and the recognition by the Egyptian regime of the Zionist enemy provide the convincing evidence to whoever has doubts on the true goals of the enemy.

Maybe, the uprising of the occupied land's Arabs in this particular time comes as a decisive reply to what the Amman summit has put forward with regards to the nationalist issue.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, as it salutes the uprising of the Arab masses in the occupied land, reminds that the Basic People's Congresses in their successive sessions had stressed the need to back the armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine and the remaining usurped Arab territories. They have also stressed that the decisive reply to the Zionist danger is the establishment of pan-Arab unity—the only guarantee to the continued Arab existence.

Algerian Unionist Meeting Continues in Tripoli

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Unity

LD191532 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1358 GMT 19 Dec 87

["Text" of speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at opening of fourth session of Libyan-Algerian unionist meeting in Tripoli on 19 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, I welcome the brother members of the Algerian Government and I salute brother combatant President Chadli Bendjedid and his comrades, the fraternal people of Algeria. I say to those who are here that they are among their family and at home, and that they are not guests. This is your home and family. I would like to express satisfaction because the unitary steps between our two countries are progressing firmly and consistently. This is the fourth meeting between the Algerian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee of the Jamahiriyah. This means that there is no interruption to the program of unitary meetings of the two fraternal countries' executive organizations.

There is no doubt that your work in the three previous meetings has paved the way for the unitary thesis, whose implementation is progressing quickly between the two countries. Regarding this, I would like to stress to everyone that we trust the Algerian unitary policy and that we highly appreciate the Algerian efforts for the benefit of its sister, the Jamahiriyah, and the Algerian solidarity with the Jamahiriyah against the numerous injustices faced by the Libyan Arab people in the north, south, and east.

Naturally the two revolutions rely on each other, and the collapse of either of them would lead to the collapse of the other. We understand quite well the policies of colonialism, which adopts the principle of divide and rule. Colonialism tries to persuade one party to neutralize and destroy the other party, then returns to that party which it previously persuaded and neutralizes and destroys it.

We have a historical experience with colonialism and a bitter struggle, and therefore we can say to the colonialists that such a policy is an exposed one as far as we are concerned. That policy, however, reached its peak of disgracefulness and arrogance when the United States announced to the world that it opposed unity between Algeria and Libya, as if Arabs are in need of authorization from the United States before they can decide their fate. We say to them that, when Algeria decided to free itself and thereby gave 1.5 million martyrs, it did not seek anybody's authorization. If only the United States understood history; regrettably the Americans do not understand history because they do not have one. If they had understood history they would have known that the Algerian people, who made such a costly decision, would not take orders from the United States, allow themselves to be influenced by any directives, or relinquish their free will, for which they paid with numerous blessed martyrs.

The Libyan people, who also sacrificed thousands of martyrs, cannot allow anybody to extend tutelage over them, notwithstanding the fact that we are living on a continent composed of former colonies, over which colonialists claim a moral right. This is an insult to these countries, which are supposed to be independent. Italy would not have the courage to say that it has a moral commitment toward Libya, and France would not have the courage to say that it has moral commitment toward Algeria, as this would have been an insult to these two great peoples who gave sacrifices so as to rid themselves of hegemony and colonialism. However, as for other people in Africa, whose independence was only superficial, France still claims that it has a moral commitment towards them. When we hear the word commitment, we should only understand it to mean subordination, that is, colonialism. France would not have the courage, either from far or from near, to make Algeria its dependent, despite the fact that Algeria is nearer to it geographically than any other country; still it would not dare to say so.

We are here after having crossed a bridge of martyrs from both great peoples, who fell for the sake of their pan-Arab ambitions and the forging of the path to a future of complete independence. Thus, we feel confident in ourselves and in our ability to determine our fate by ourselves and to forge our way. We possess the capabilities we need for forging our path to the future, provided we unify our capabilities and realize the need for unifying our capabilities. We, in the two fraternal and neighboring countries, work day and night to exploit the capabilities and use them to create a better future for both peoples.

Undoubtedly, brothers, the Libyan Arab side is aware that Algeria has played a very important political role, which deserves to be mentioned out of respect for the Algerian Government, in bringing forth the idea of the union of the Arab Maghreb, which is only a step on the road toward comprehensive Arab unity. It is still playing this prominent role and it is our duty to recognize this and accord Algeria the honor for this—the honor of taking the initiative and of working seriously and patiently, but without being rash, for the attainment of this aspired and attractive hope and without sidestepping realities. However, their caution is not that of the regionalists, who want to keep away the day of Arab unity and turn it into a mirage in the name of reason and realism. The secessionists use such words—which are good words used for doing wrong—as a pretext for keeping away the day of unity.

But when I say that Algeria is moving with firm, unrushed, and well-studied steps, I mean that these are the steps of serious people, of revolutionaries who are aware of the gravity of the challenges facing the Arabs and the need to achieve this unity.

Consequently, Algeria did not consider the aim of the union to be a mirage, but it has made it a reality to which we are getting nearer every day. God willing, it will materialize in the forthcoming period. I highly praise the wise policy of the brother militant, Chadli Bendjedid, his colleagues within the FLN party, the Algerian people, and all revolutionary and popular tendencies in Algeria

which are strongly paving the way toward the achievement of the union of the Greater Maghreb as a step toward the realisation of full Arab unity.

An unhurried move toward the establishment of unity between Algeria and Libya is likely to undermine the regionalists' accusations directed against this sacred action, who tend to libel it as forming an axis or as creating a cluster, and so on. However, Algeria has confronted everybody with their responsibilities, starting with brothers in Tunisia, to Morocco and Mauritania.

I have before me a statement made by Hassan II, when he answered a question on the union between Libya and Algeria. The question was: What is your position toward it, even if you would have to be excluded from it? He said: I welcome every rapprocement. However, we disagree with anyone who thinks that any rapprocement can be struck at the expense of others, because every state has its own particular institutions with which it defends its security and sovreignty. One should not look at the negative side in the moves of all [word indistinct]. We welcome anything that brings the sides together, particularly between Algeria and Libya.

Therefore, we proposed to him the idea of union. Even though he did not join us, here he is stating personally and openly that he does not consider the union between Libya and Algeria as forming an axis or as being at the expense of Morocco. This is good; despite the fact that he did not join us in this union, he took an excellent position. He did not accuse us of letting him down or of establishing a union without him, but there is hope that this union will include all states of the Greater Maghreb.

I am talking about union and unity as the ultimate goal and as the sound historic framework in which all our potential should be deployed in order to build a better future, so that we will be able to live proudly on this Earth and under the sun, on equal footing with the states which have made great progress in this domain. I am talking about this issue because this meeting is a brick which forms part of this wall.

Your previous meetings were bricks in that great unitary construction. Perhaps your previous achievements—this is the fourth meeting of the two executive organizations—encouraged the two countries and indicated that they could carry out a joint unitary action.

Now we sit as brothers, the Algerian Government and the Libyan People's Committee. However, this reminds me, as I once said at a meeting with the brothers in Tunisia and I repeat it today: In previous years there was a delegation from Barka and a delegation from Tripoli, and they used to sit as we are doing now and they used to say sister Tripoli and sister Barka. Now we laugh at the expression and at the mentality which said sister Barka and sister Tripoli, and we say they were provinces. This has become one of the funny things of the past. In future years I think we will laugh every time we sit and remember that we used to say sister Libya and sister Algeria while we are one people and one country. In the future it will be funny to recall that this one people and one land was two sides which talked to each other as sister so-and-so and sister such-and-such.

Regionalism is something imposed by colonialism and is a temporary thing, and will inevitably and necessarily be removed, because without unity we can never live in this era in which huge regional blocs are forming, and life needs huge resources which cannot be found in any single individual region. Even the European countries, which have huge resources—and a number of them are nuclear powers—nevertheless found that the nature of the era demanded the establishment of the EEC bloc. What began as an economic action is changing into a political action.

So what about us, the Arab mini-states, each of which is less than a province in a European country? In addition to the two major blocs, the whole world is forming into other blocs. The Arab countries, African countries, and Latin America—those countries which did not change into large blocs—are now the battlefields and arenas at whose expense detente between the major powers takes place. These countries are tiny; thus they represent a vacuum and regions of low strength. The world's imperialist powers would like the strategic Arab region to remain a vacuum without a force which can put its hands on these strategic keys about which we have repeatedly spoken, such as Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandab, Hormuz, the Gulf of Sidra, and the southern shores of the Mediterranean. This is the center of communications between the continents of the world, between East and West, between North and South. The Arab region is the center of these communications. Therefore, the imperialist powers do not want a force to grow and put its hands on this strategic region. The industrial powers also want to make the Arab world a consumer market for their products, consequently, it fights off any attempt at industrialization. They want our raw materials for their industries, and so they fight any attempt by us to exploit these raw materials. Oil for instance, [words indistinct] these raw materials we now export as raw materials. Oil should not be exported as crude, but should be exported after processing; because when we export crude oil they then process it into various products and sell it right back to us. We buy things like this ruler—it might have been manufactured from Libyan or Algerian oil, but we sold the crude and they processed it and turned it into a ruler, into pens. We should have sold it in the form of pens, rulers, and many other things.

It is in their interest for this region to remain backward, with no industrial force and no exploitation of its raw materials, and to remain a consumption market. They constantly encourage us to consume. Our people have become greedy consumers, which harms our future. This consumption is a fire that burns out all the capabilities which we should use for production. They taught us all

the things that do not [words indistinct]. They make them for our sake—even toys, even playing cards, they even make these things for us to distract ourselves. They hope that we will have parties at night and idly sleep all day, that we will drink alcohol, play cards, or even play football. All these things they spread among us so that we do not think of serious work, despite the fact that at times it might be essential for us to be serious, not the way things are now, the way they taught us.

In general, the cause of my satisfaction is that I am confident of the wise Algerian policy. In the confrontations which the Libyan people have had, Algeria indeed exerted a lot of influence on a group of foreign states in the interest of the Libyan people; and this should be mentioned and valued. I am indeed confident that the brother President Chadli Bendjedid and his comrades, the Algerian brothers, and the Algerian people will pursue a policy [words indistinct] respect and trust in the sphere of unionist action.

I pin great hopes on the Algerian initiative concerning the unity of the Great Arab Maghreb, which will bear fruit, God willing. [words indistinct] the speech delivered by brother President Chadli at the autumn session of the Algerian National Assembly, and I admired it very much indeed. As for the persistent work—this is exactly how it should be described, as persistent work—by Algerians for the unification of the Arab ranks, their work for the sacred cause continues with determination and stubbornness. This is not mere talk. Algeria's policy is indeed taking this course.

(?It is indeed madness for) the Western Sahara conflict to continue and to remain one of the objective obstacles to an urgent and comprehensive unionist plan. [Words indistinct] Algeria submits a comprehensive and urgent unification plan. However, regretably, the problem of the Sahara remains, (?in connection) with Morocco, an obstacle in our way. Algeria has not spared any effort in providing help for a just political solution and an end to this conflict and has not been lacking in its support of the joint good offices. Algeria is a supporter of the Arab Maghreb. We will continue our work with the brotherly Libyan people [as heard] in marching along the path to tangible results whicht will not be affected by changing circumstances, by virtue of patient endeavor, avoiding haste, and adhering to practicality.

Algeria believes that the time has come to take another step to advance the unity of the Greater Maghreb to a decisive stage in its realization, within the framework of respect for the the people's freedom to choose their own political system and noninterference in others' internal affairs.

This is right, and in fact we cannot but agree on it and commend it [words indistinct]. I believe we can now work in an atmosphere that promotes joint action and the aspirations of the masses in this direction. The challenges from outside are provoking us so as to follow this direction. Our aspirations to eliminate backwardness and the nature of the era make us pursue this course, this direction. Therefore, this meeting of the two sister countries' executive bodies is being held in very favorable conditions for further steps on this path to unity.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, you should seize this prevailing and favorable atmosphere to intensify efforts to accomplish the most in the shortest period of time, because the opportunity is there for you.

There is a favorable opportunity now for intensifying efforts and achieving much in a very short time. I mean there is now a favorable opportunity open to you. Do anything: joint companies, joint projects, remove obstacles. As far as we are concerned—and this in fact is the feeling of all Libyans—we have no reservations on our part towards Algeria. Indeed, I evaluate the Algerian charter highly and consider it a rational factor leading toward unity and rationale in the other matters it tackles. I do not disapprove of any of the acts Algeria is taking.

We feel that our brothers in Algeria truly feel the historic responsibility, that the time has become ripe for the realization of Arab unity, and that the sacrifices we have offered would be wasted if they were not crowned with an act of unity. Our independent achievements are liable to be lost at any time unless protected by a framework of unity. I feel so much that the brothers in Algeria seriously and profoundly realize this fact, that when I sit with them, anxious to talk zealously, and then they speak, I feel that all that I wanted to say has already been said by the Algerian side and that I would only be interrupting them.

On a previous occasion, I sent Dr George Habash and Taysir [Qubba'ah, member of the Palestine National Salvation Front] to Algeria, where they met with President Chadli and with Messaidiya. I asked them about the Algerian line and they said that, by God, when we heard President Chadli and Messaidiya talk we thought you were talking, though the voices were different. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] They said they felt that there was no difference in what both of us were saying. In fact, this is progress, that we both talk the same. This means we have bred trust between us, which is step forward.

This would be a historic defeat for imperialism, which seeks to colonize our countries, to persecute our peoples, and to bind our countries to themselves wrongly and unjustly. The true historic victory over historic imperialism lies in the triumph of our pan-Arab willpower and the unity of our divided, tortured, and humilated nation.

We consider you capable of doing this. We leave this initiative for brother President Chadli, whom I trust. The role you are carrying out reassures me somewhat. We try to convince every Arab country and we explain things to them. Now, the brother Algerians have been

carrying out this role, but in a calmer manner. We indeed admire their attitude and their policy. We wish you success. We are very happy to see you here among us in your country. Thank you.

Al-Muntasir Remarks

LD192050 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—During the Libyan-Algerian joint executive committee session, the joint follow-up committee's report was reviewed. It included a complete survey of the protocol of the meeting of the joint executive committee's third session in Algeria of 14 to 17 June 1987. The report included a survey of the industrial, construction, energy, technical, petrochemical projects, and the gas pipeline project between the Great Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, and Algeria. The report also dealt with economic cooperation, trade and cooperation in the fields of finance, banking, transportation, communications, and planning, and also the fields of information, culture, and social research, vocational training, and health.

The joint follow-up committee recommended the development of joint action between the national establishment for electronic industries in Algeria and the executive appratus for electronic industries in the Great Jamahiriyah. The committee urged the preparation of a cooperation program in the search for water and in hydrologic studies. The committee also recommended the drawing up of a final program for cooperation in the information field for 1988, and the convening of committees on cooperation in finance and banking before the end of this month in order to decide on the headquarters of the joint bank and also to define the joint financial companies and establishments. The committee also proposed several measures for the development and consolidation of cooperation in line with the unionist revolutionary orientations in the Great Jamahiriyah and in Algeria.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee ['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] made a speech during the opening session, in which he welcomed Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and Algerian prime minister.

He said: I extend to you a welcome which befits your position, in our view. Algeria, its people, leadership and revolution, are close to the hearts of the people in the Jamahiriyah. It is the symbol of unionist leadership. Algeria opened the door for getting rid of colonialism through the armed popular revolution carried out by its fighters on the people's fighting front, pursuing intact political organization alongside the armed organization, making better use of the struggle of the peoples to gain freedom.

He added that revolution in Algeria was engraved in the hearts of the Libyans and occupied their minds. We welcome you to a homeland of your revolutionary homelands, and a place in your big Arab nation in the same way as the Libyan people welcomed the Algerian revolution.

He said that it is not impossible for us, as we meet for the fourth time, to achieve a new step which will be added to what has been already realized or decided during the previous meetings. We proceed from a political determination to achieve Arab unity in general and the unity of the Maghreb in particular, and a needed unity between Algeria and the Jamahiriyah, because this determination is clear in all its aspects to our two leaderships, and we continually focus on it. Meetings are being held and contacts being pursued not to stress this emphasis, but to confirm it. It does not represent a temporary and passing style to confront a political phenomenon or an economic situation or a social necessity, but it is the end and the means.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee added that since the historic meeting in Ain Amenas between the brother leader of the revolution and the president of the republic, the path was becoming clearer every day. This historic vision and farseeing thought of the two leaders, prophesying that unity is inevitable, can be seen on the horizon. The actions by both the executive committee or other committees fall within the scope of the work whose bases have already been laid.

He said this fourth meeting, as a followup by our two leaderships, is meeting at a time when it has become clear from the meetings of the appropriate technical committees, which were set up at the previous meetings, and the meetings of experts that the unionist steps underway between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria have a practical, firm basis. They are not a figment of one's imagination or a fantasy. Documents clearly indicate what can be achieved at all levels.

Through this unionist style of action, it was possible to discover the extent of the potential existing in our two countries. Creative human actions discovered ways of exploiting our natural resources to benefit our real economies. Bodies in both countries set up a program for a horizontal trade exchange; and instead of squandering our potential surplus or trading it to the economies of the developed countries, this surplus was set aside for our two states or for third countries in our region. Instead of trying to get the goods or resources we lack from various countries, we found out that these shortages could be and should be met by ourselves. If colonialism was a third party in our relations, we discovered that through establishing a union and defeating the middleman, it was possible to revive solidarity without effort or difficulty. All that is needed in this respect is this objectivity, which God has given to our two leaderships.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee said: Allow me, dear brothers, not to call this matter cooperation or integration, because a characteristic of cooperation or integration is that one or both sides act on the basis of personal benefit and this benefit can be at the expense of the other side or sides. As to the form which we have accepted, its unionist character has benefits for both sides and for other Arabs.

I cannot find the words nor the time, should I wish to give an example, yet it is all right to say that the documents pertaining to cooperation in the field of energy must benefit both countries, and they will bring benefit to a third party. The flow of gas from its two sources serves the interests of both of them; and on this basis, industries will rise which will benefit the whole region. There is no harm in saying that another fraternal country will have a role to play which will benefit it. As to the allocation of industries' roles, channeling the capabilities and raw materials of the two countries, this does not just mean using the primary resources instead of wasting them through exports as raw materials, but also the employment of the creative forces of our people and rewarding their effort. The industries' yield and proceeds will not only absorb the masses of our two countries, but must cover the needs of other masses of our one Arab people.

One cannot ignore the consolidation of personal and economic relations as a result of mass communications, whether radio or television. I agree with you that the horizontal trade relations have proved the futility of importing what we need from those who monopolize the production of our brothers. This direct link can remove the middlemen, who have exploited our inability to market and our investment deficiency, to add value to what we consume and thus take a part of what we produce.

He said: The list of discoveries which have become clear to us through these meetings and agreements is long, but I cannot ignore that the formation of joint companies, whether in specialist fields such as exploration and geophysics or the petrochemical industries, or the company concerned with mechanical industries, or the studies concerning iron and steel, electronics, and so on have proved that the scope is wide and fertile, and that once the determination is there and the intention is clear, we will be able to make what is needed and necessary. We do not need miracles to achieve unity.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee went on to say: I have already said that I distinguish between our course and between the mechanisms of cooperation and integration. Our course and our means of achieving [unity], the original idea which governs its progress, the idea of the necessary unity, is a good way for development and will certainly benefit the two sides and is to the objective interest of all who support it. The examples I have mentioned are enough.

He said: We meet for the fourth time, not in order to define the road, as our leaderships have already defined this, or to discuss the means of beginning implementation, for previous starts proved that this matter requires more. What is before us now is the strengthening of the determination to continue along this road, the making of a serious and good step for the achievement of unity, and the spreading of this type of relations among the Arab countries once they become committed to unity.

It is no secret, and you all know that a few days ago we completed meetings with brothers dear to us and to you, the YAR Council of Ministers. Those at that meeting showed that no matter how wide the gap between Arab countries, the road is clear and the return to what made us one nation is inescapable. Unity does not require statements or protocols of meetings; sincere and serious meetings constitute the way to our goal and will lead to real ties. Like a wound in one's body that requires balm to heal it, the fragmentation of the Arab nation needs medicine, and that medicine is unity, so that it may return to the state that God had wished for it. Part of our balm was our meeting with you.

Finally, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee said: I confirm to you that we in the Great Jamahiriyah, like you in Algeria, are more determined to achieve unity, and will not yield in our work at all levels for its achievement. We do not belittle the ties between us, be they few or many, but we are greedy for more, for the broader our unity, the more abundant and generous its yields and the stronger it will be.

Algeria's Brahimi Speaks

LD202101 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 4th unionist meeting of the Arab Libyan Algerian Mixed Executive Committee began yesterday in Tripoli.

Present at the meeting were Abdelhamid Brahimi, the supplementary member of the Political Bureau of the Algerian FLN Party and prime minister, the members of the Algerian Council of Ministers, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee.

During the session of yesterday, reviewed were the report of the joint monitoring committee which included a comprehensive review of the protocol of the meeting of the Mixed Executive Committee in its 3rd session on 14-17 Al-Sayf [June] 1987. The report included a review of the industrial and construction projects and projects of energy and technology and petrochemicals as well as the project of the gas pipe-line between Great Jamahiriyah-Algeria and Tunisia.

Also the report discussed economic co-operation, trade exchange, financial and banking co-operation, transport and telecommunications, planning in addition to

spheres of information, culture and social affairs which included the sphere of information, education, teaching and scientific research and spheres of vocational training and the medical sphere.

The mixed monitoring committee recommended the development of joint action between the National Corporation for Electronic Industry in Algeria and the Executive Organ of Electronic Industries in Great Jamahiriyah. The committee called for a preparation of a programme in the sphere of co-operation for searching for water and hydrological studies.

Furthermore, the committee called for the need to lay down a final programme for co-operation and information for 1988 and the meeting of specialised committees in financial and banking co-operation by the end of the current month so as to determine the seat of the joint bank as well as determining the joint financial companies and institutions. Also the committee forwarded a number of proposals on measures to develop and consolidate the spheres of co-operation in accordance with the revolutionary unionist orientation of Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

The secretary of the General People's Committee made a speech at the opening session welcoming Abdelhamid Brahimi, supplementary member of the Politburo of the Algerian FLN Party and the prime minister of sisterly Algeria, and the members of the Algerian Government. [passage omitted]

Abdelhamid Brahimi, the supplementary member of the Political Bureau of the Algerian FLN party and the prime minister, addressed the meeting in which he replied to the speech made by the leader of the revolution at the opening session.

He made clear that the contents of the speech of the leader of the revolution yesterday were asserted by President Chadli Bendjedid before the National People's Assembly last Tuesday on the need to build-up an Arab Maghreb and its necessity so as to set up an economic integration in the Arab Maghreb as a first step towards unification of the Arab nation.

Brahimi referred to the difficult circumstances of the situation and called for earnest action and the shouldering of responsibility by both countries [word indistinct] methods to give the Arab Maghreb its genuine effective and tangible meaning.

Brahimi pointed to the international economic and social contradiction in the world economic, financial and monetary system according to which the major countries imposed their opinion on the third world countries as the latter were not present in the conclusion of the accords made in 1944 and other agreements thereafter.

He cited the various reasons (?for the) economic, financial and monetary crisis. He said "Our economy is always based on the fundamental principle of self-reliance building our economy and society in accordance with our fundamental orientations. [no final quotation marks as received]

He asserted that the world today is characterised by economic and social groupings on the side of major countries which have geographical sphere and immense economic sphere and immense manpower and (?observed that) [words indistinct] gone long way which in fact went beyond what is called the European Common Market and they are talking about 1992. They are [words indistinct] and economical Europe.

(?That is) to say there is a total integration and total economic integration among these countries (?seeing) that these countries were in distant path had wars and amongst them existed differences problems of all types including social and economic problems and also of civilisation [words indistinct] the Second World War and specifically (?when) they set up the EEC.

Abdelhamid Brahimi asserted that we should not stand idly by before this international [words indistinct] methods and problems and that is why the bilateral action which we conducted since the past years and especially since the important start we saw since 1986 after the meeting of "Ain Aminas" between (?leader) of the Libyan revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid and after our third meeting in March (?1987) as well as the [words indistinct] of the two executive organs of the two countries. We noticed today that when we set up economic and social unionist action we find positive aspects, as in the industrial field 8 joint companies were established and recently submitted to the People's National Assembly in Algeria for endorsement and unanimously endorsed by the assembly (?and there) is also at least 10 new mixed companies which are already programmed and in my opinion further companies should be added and whenever ideas of projects mature we execute and realise them and we also notice this must be put within a framework for (?the) bilateral cooperation (?in organizing) economic integration between our two countries in conformity with the development plans in the two countries. And this co-operation, I suggest, to be studied during this meeting and endorsed so as to submit it when we return to Algeria to the People's National Assembly for endorsement so as to become law and to work through it to set up mixed companies in [the] future between our two countries.

He added that we noticed that in the sphere of energy be it what is concerning the importation of gas from Algeria or the linking of the two electric networks between our two countries or even amongst a number of countries in the field of energy between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Tunisia and Algeria which is a new step to (?guard) the relations and interests of the countries of the Arab Maghreb and also we notice that everything is going well in the sphere of trade.

Brahimi said that we work for laying down a clear framework and a clear and firm principle and we must consider it our duty in Algeria to import products available in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and export it abroad which Algeria imports from other countries and we even [words indistinct] the difference in prices.

Brahimi pointed out that Algeria endorsed the lessening of customs and excise duties on Libyan products in addition to co-ordination in (?expediting) the exchange of information between the two countries so as to enhance the negotiations capabilities and purchase of the two countries.

He called for the need of a joint bank to support trade exchange and unionist development efforts between the two countries open to other parties in the Arab Maghreb to join in and at least to (?facilitate) [word indistinct] set up between these two countries.

Brahimi reiterated the speech of President Chedli last Tuesday in which he called for firm and quiet work to set up the [words indistinct] give it a meaningful content not merely [words indistinct] slogans. He said we must continue to work to support our meetings by endorsing new projects and we hope that in future meetings take place at the level of delegations of experts or secretaries or ministers or at our level and such meetings to take place continuously resulting in new projects for the mutual benefits of the two countries and beyond so as to serve the interests of the Arab Maghreb and the construction of the Arab nation in future.

Delegation Departs

LD202238 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and Algerian prime minister, and the brother members of the Council of Ministers of fraternal Algeria, departed Tripoli this evening following the unionist meeting of the joint Libyan Arab-Algerian executive committee. [passage omitted]

Arab Opposition Party Meeting Continues

Lebanese Secretary Makes Speech

LD181505 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2049 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, at 15 December banquet in honor of the delegations participating in the conference of Arab opposition parties in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] I would like to speak, if the brother leader and militant Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and my brothers and comrades, gathered at the conference of the Arab opposition parties, will allow me to say a few words. I promise them beforehand that this will not be a lengthy speech. These words will be summed up in two words. The first one is to sincerely thank the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, its people, its revolution, and its leader, brother militant Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for this initiative which has given us the opportunity to meet and discuss, in an atmosphere of real freedom and democracy, some of the affairs and worries of our Arab nation. We will not find any solution to these affairs and worries if we do not discuss them objectively and seriously. Perceiving the problem takes us halfway to the solution.

During 3 days of dialogue we became more closely acquainted with one another's stands and we did not tire of the views that were expressed and over which we all differed. Indeed, we followed the inspired speech made by the leader at the opening session and the encouragement given by the brothers from the Jamahiriyah who supervised the conference, urging us to go, discuss, and decide in all freedom on what you see fit, as the cause is yours and there should be no trusteeship over your decision. This is indeed a new experience emanating from the experience of the people's authority in practice on the land of the Jamahiriyah. Thousands of greetings and thousands of thanks to the Jamahiriyah and to its leader for what they have done to ensure the success of our conference. [applause]

The second word is to pledge that we will continue what was started today—which is in itself a continuation of a previous effort and an accumulation of struggles throughout this Arab homeland and throughout this Arab land, the land of our Arab nation which is urging us to rise to the level of responsibilities and face up to the great challenges threatening our very existence as a nation, and not just our aspirations.

We pledge that the resolutions of our conference will be the minimum necessary for our struggle from which and above which we will rise in order to continue the march by stressing our adherence to the resolutions and vowing that we will remain loyal to this common denominator, namely, the protection of our land, our sanctities, our independent revolutionary pan-Arab decisions, our right to live, and our will to stay alive.

Indeed, we pledge to the leader to remain loyal to the principles that unite us as genuine patriots, as genuine pan-Arab nationalists, and as a genuine opposition from various political, social, intellectual, ideological, and organizational horizons. We pledge to meet to find ways to end the state of collapse through which our nation is going, to confront the capitulationist process, and to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and its revolution, the struggle of the Lebanese people and its nationalist movement, and the struggle of every Arab people in every Arab arena who is struggling for its national causes and for the common pan-Arab causes after the full, organic, dialectical, and unbreakable link between the nationalist and the pan-Arab was established, and after it was established that there is no

prospect for achieving and ensuring the victory of a nationalist movement in any Arab country outside the framework of a unified, strong, and powerful Arab struggle for the sake of Arab unity, which remains the main cause determining the future and the very existence of the Arabs.

Indeed, this is a pledge to be loyal to these sacred ideas and an affirmation to the Jamahiriyah, its people, its revolution, and its leader that we are with you with words, will, and weapons for the defense of the advanced position you represent by leading the movement for the liberation of our Arab nation and by leading the liberation movements of the peoples of the world; and we are with you for the defense of the advanced position which you occupy in the progressive movement of the world for the sake of liberation, social progress, emancipation, real freedom, and real peace in a world where the causes of the people become unified causes in our present era.

We return to our country to continue the battle, with bigger hearts beating a pan-Arab beat to the pulse of this nation and to the leader's assertions that the Jamahiriyah, with its capabilities and potential, will stand behind these struggling states which will achieve success in their struggle.

Thousands of thanks to you, O Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and O great people of Libya.

Lebanese Delegation Departs

LD182132 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. George Hawi, the sec. gen. of the Lebanese Communist Party, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday.

In comments made to JANA, Mr. Hawi says that the Arab opposition parties has achieved great success and its results have been lauded by the leader of the revolution, in his pan-Arab speech delivered at the banquet given to the participating delegations.

He adds that this conference has given the opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the most basic questions and has given the chance to unify the viewpoint on these questions.

The democratic atmosphere provided by Great al-Jamahiriyah, he adds, has contributed into making the delegations reach common ground that has constituted a minimum level of stepping up the struggle.

This conference, he asserts, has been a demonstration supporting Great al-Jamahiriyah, the leader of the revolution and the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

They have brought about a pan-Arab achievement alongside the accomplishments achieved inside Great al-Jamahiriyah.

This effort will be continued through the framework of the pan-Arab command of the Arab revolutionary forces and within the framework of the Arab people's congress besides other meetings, the aim being building the unity of the progressive and national forces at the pan-Arab level as a basic guarantee to build the overall Arab unity. This will be made possible after approving by the Arab opposition parties of Arab union proposal put forward by the leader of the revolution as a mission of struggle for the living forces in our nation.

The conference, he concludes, has with great responsibility discussed the central questions especially the question of Arab unity and that of the struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Nasirite, Murabitun Officials

LD201522 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution had a meeting with Brothers Mustafa Ma'ruf Sa'd, official of the Nasirite Popular Organization, and Ibrahim Qulaylat, official of the Murabitun Movement of Lebanon.

The meeting between the brother leader and Nasirite forces was in keeping with the nationalist and pan-Arab responsibility borne by them and in response to the revolutionary incitement of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, in his capacity as the guardian of Arab nationalism and unity.

It has been learned that during the meeting the importance of pan-Arab cohesion among progressive Arab forces in the Great Jamahiriyah, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon was stressed in order to achieve their unity on the path to liberating the Arab homeland from imperialism, Zionism, and reaction.

Former PDRY President Asks for Intervention

LD201742 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received brother 'Alawi 'Abd al-Rahman al-Saqqaf, PDRY ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

It is worth noting that Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has contacted the brother leader of the revolution and urged him to intervene with the brother officials of South Yemen to reconsider the sentences passed on him and his followers.

USSR Air Defense Commander Visits Memorials

LD211811 Tripoli JANA in English 1722 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ivan Tretyak, the member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, and the deputy defence minister and commander in-chief of the Air Defence Forces placed a wreath of flowers on the memorial for Al-Hani battle's martyrs.

Ivan and his accompanying delegation also paid a visit to the tombs of the martyrs of the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression in the residential areas of Tripoli and Banghazi.

Soviet Envoy Visits To Discuss Relations

Meets Jallud

LD220750 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Dec (JANA)—Yesterday evening, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Mikhail Sytenko, envoy of the Soviet leadership, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah for consultations on matters concerning bilateral relations.

Envoy Ends Talks, Leaves

LD221031 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Dec (JANA)—Soviet ambassador at large, Mikhail Sytenko, left Tripoli this morning at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, during which he held consultations on bilateral relations.

Mauritania

Day of Solidarity With Palestinians Observed

AB210945 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] In connection with the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people of the occupied territories, our country, along with other Arab countries, will observe a minute of silence at noon today throughout the nation. We recall that this day of solidarity with the Palestinian people struggling against Zionist oppression was instituted by the Arab League Council in its last session.

Morocco

Talks With Algeria Begin in Rabat

LD172302 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Rabat, 17 Dec (MAP)—Talks between the Moroccan and Algerian delegations opened in Rabat this morning under the chairmanship of Ahmed Cherkaoui, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

The two delegations began their talks, which will discuss all issues pending, immediately after the opening session. The two sides are headed by Ali Skali, director of political affairs at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Ahmed Attaf, director of political affairs at the Algerian Foreign Ministry,

These contacts will also enable the two sides to define the agenda of the Moroccan-Algerian ministerial committee, which will meet at a later date under the chairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The Algerian delegation arrived in Casablanca on Wednesday [16 December].

Filali Returns From Saudi Cooperation Talks

LD181413 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Abdelatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Morocco after leading the Moroccan delegation to the fourth session of the supreme joint Moroccan-Saudi committee for economic, cultural, and technical cooperation. The session was held this week in Riyadh.

The delegation accompanying Mr Abdelatif Filali included senior officials from a number of ministries and representatives of the private sector.

The work of the supreme joint Moroccan-Saudi committee was crowned with extremely positive results that will strengthen the ancient, friendly relations of cooperation binding the two fraternal countries.

The two sides agreed to form a joint Moroccan-Saudi company for investment and development. The legal procedures for organizing this important institution will begin very soon.

In the field of commercial exchanges, the two countries agreed to widen the list of duty-exempt products to increase the volume of commercial trade between the two countries. The sides also agreed to begin discussions on widening an agreement on securing and encouraging investment very soon.

Morocco and Saudi Arabia decided to start negotiations on ratifying an agreement for mutual exemption from duties at airports, and from taxes and excise duties to benefit the two national Moroccan and Saudi airlines, to encourage the air links between the two fraternal countries.

The two countries also agreed to carry out a number of procedures for twinning Saudi and Moroccan airports to establish beneficial cooperation between them. This is similar to the existing arrangement between Mohamed V Airport in Casablanca and King 'Abd al-'Aziz Airport in Jeddah.

It should be noted that the supreme joint Moroccan-Saudi committee has recommended consolidating the work of the Saudi Development Fund in Morocco. It has also emphasized the means that should be used for greater cooperation in agriculture, due to the great potential that both countries display in this field.

The two sides discussed the means for consolidating their cooperation in the fields of manpower, vocational training, and investments for tourism. They also studied the means needed to establish close cooperation in the fields of equipment, public works, and communications and telecommunications. Saudi Arabia expressed its desire to utilize the services of Moroccan engineers and architects, and suggested that Morocco use Saudi telephone equipment in Moroccan contacts with the Far East.

They also agreed to consolidate maritime contacts between the two countries, to increase their cooperation in the scientific and information fields, and to coordinate their joint Islamic work.

Sudan

Armed Forces Successfully Reach Kurmuk Region

NC201823 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 20 Dec (MENA)—Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, Sudanese minister of state for defense, has stated that the Sudanese Armed Forces are now in the Kurmuk region, after having successfully traversed some positions. He also noted that there are other places that must be crossed for Kurmuk to be regained completely.

In an exclusive statement to MENA today, the minister commented that the morale of the Sudanese Armed Forces is high. He denied that two military aircraft had crashed, and stated that only one MIG-23 fighter crashed last Wednesday [16 December] due to a technical failure, thus killing its pilot. The Sudanese minister explained that the MIG was one of the four Libyan aircraft that had been modified for offensive as well as defensive strikes.

The Sudanese minister said that Sudan is relying only on itself to regain its territory from the rebels. He also added that Sudan expects to receive military aid from fraternal and friendly states. Maj Gen Nasir said further that diplomatic and political efforts are being undertaken with Ethiopia and the rebels to establish peace, and that the Armed Forces will continue to carry out their duties until it has been attained. [passage omitted]

On 'Outskirts' of Kurmuk, Qaysan

JN211755 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Madani (Central Sudan) Dec. 21 (SUNA)—The Sudanese regular Armed Forces have recaptured advanced positions on the outskirts of Kurmuk and Qaysan towns (Eastern Sudan) and are advancing towards the full recovery of the two towns, a military spokesman announced in a statement published here today.

The two towns have been held by the rebel troops of Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) which is backed by the Ethiopian Government.

The commander of the Second Infantry Batallion, Gen. Zayn al-'Abidin Qasmallah, yesterday pointed that "groups of rebels" have expressed desire to surrender to the Armed Forces following the attacks on the rebels who have sustained heavy losses on their ranks.

The military official has, however, warned citizens from protecting the fugitives of the SPLA and that places have been assigned for those who want to surrender on condition they raise the white flag.

'Subversive Cell' Uncovered in Ad Damazin

JN211045 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Dec (SUNA)—A subversive cell operating as a fifth column has been uncovered and its members apprehended in the Ad Damazin region. Its function was to relay news of the position and movements of the Sudanese Army to the forces of John Garang.

The members of the cell include an engineer and two workers at an important strategic facility. Security authorities and military intelligence discovered leaflets and documents in the possession of the cell members. This proved their involvement in providing information to the Garang movement on the movements of the Armed Forces from Ad Damazin to the military operations area.

The engineer was arrested together with the two workers while in possession of a leaflet addressed to members of the so-called Popular Brigade [Al-Liwa' al-Sha'bi], an organization parallel to the rebel forces. The leaflet calls for identifying weak security points in strategic areas.

Major General Zayn al-'Abidin Qasmallah, commander of the 14th Ad Damazin Brigade, yesterday spoke at a news conference in Ad Damazin. There he displayed a document found with the first defendant. This document contains information on the Armed Forces, as well as about the activities of the cell. It also requests information about a cable sent 2 weeks prior to the date of the document. According to the confiscated files, the members of the cell were awaiting further instructions as soon as possible.

Maj Gen Zayn al-'Abidin Qasmallah has ordered that the defendants be kept in custody until they are turned over to the higher authorities in Khartoum.

Al-Mirghani Discusses Military Service

JN211739 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 21 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Council of State Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani said in a statement addressed to the nation, here Monday, that directives were issued for enacting law of civil defence which will hold the people, and particularly youth, to join national military service.

The statement said the Council of State had completed its meetings with all political and trade unions forces on the issue of general mobilization which was intended for securing the internal front on all the military, security, political and economic sides.

Al-Mirghani also said directives were made for forming a permanent reserve to assist the regular forces in maintaining the country's security.

The chairman of the Council of State further said that a national supreme committee will be formed with the view to securing internal front, assisting the Armed Forces and unifying Sudanese will to bring about solutions to all the country's main issues.

Al-Mirghani called on all leaders of political and trade unions and regional committees to a meeting to be held here soon with the view to organizing a national conference on general mobilization throughout the country.

Prime Minister Returns From Jordan, Libya

JN201159 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec 20 (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned home last night from Tripoli ending a three-day tour to Jordan and two-day [as received] to Libya.

The premier told the pressmen upon arrival at Khartoum airport that his talks with the Jordanian and Libyan officials covered bilateral security, (?the) Arab nation, current developments in the Arab occupied lands beside the security of Red Sea and the Horn of African.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi described his talks with the Jordanian officials as "positive" and hailed the Jordanian efforts for rehabilitation Kas town hospital in Darfur, western Sudan

Regarding his tour to Libya, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said he has met with the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and discussed with him means of promoting of bilateral relations and current development in the area. The premier noted that both sides reiterated their desire to realize peace in the area and expressed rejection to foreign interference in the area and expressed rejection to foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

President [title as received] al-Qadhdhafi has called for peaceful settlements to the problems in Libya, Sudan and Chad, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said.

Leaves on 'Official' PRC Visit

JN201526 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Dec (SUNA)—This afternoon, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left the country for the PRC at the head of a high-level delegation. Their official visit will last several days.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that this visit seeks to enhance PRC-Sudanese relations, which he described as very strong. He added: We hope that this visit will strengthen these ties.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Begins Proceedings

Ministers Arrive in Riyadh

LD211208 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 21 (KUNA)—Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah arrived here Monday to attend the GCC Ministerial Council.

The Bahraini minister, who was received at the airport by his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, expressed belief that the political situation in the region in addition to various Gulf, Arab and international issues of concern to the GCC states will be discussed by the foreign ministers tonight.

He also added that the council will discuss the economic agreement and development of economic cooperation among the GCC member countries.

He stressed that the forthcoming GCC summit will strengthen the existing fraternity between the Arab Gulf countries, affirming that this summit will greatly participate in realizing the GCC citizens' goals.

Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani and the accompanying delegation arrived here to participate in tonight's meetings.

The UAE and Oman's State Ministers for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Rashid ibn Abdallah al-Nu'aymi and Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah also arrived later in the day for the same purpose.

Prince Faysal on Gulf Dangers

LD211723 Kuwait KUNA in English 1610 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 21 (KUNA)—Six foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states Monday started deliberations here in a bid to prepare for the GCC eighth summit scheduled to open in the Saudi capital Saturday.

Speaking at the opening session, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister stressed that the meeting is being held at a time the Gulf region is passing through one of the most "dangerous and delicate phases of its history."

He pointed out such crucial conditions underscore the need for "utmost cautiousness" as to confront any "vicious plots" hatched against the region's states.

The Saudi minister added such suspicious designs were intended "to distract us from our plans for security, stability and development."

Al-Faysal said the agenda includes a number of issues, but he did not specify.

Foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates were all present in the meeting which went into a closed session confined to the official delegations.

Ministers Hold Preparatory Talks

LD212102 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The GCC foreign ministers ended their first working session this evening at the conference hall in Riyadh. They are preparing for the eighth GCC summit scheduled for next Saturday. [passage omitted]

The GCC foreign ministers will discuss a comprehensive report prepared by the General Secretariat on GCC accomplishments in various sectors through ministerial meetings and meetings of the subcommittees held during the period between the seventh session, held in the UAE, and the eighth session. The agenda also includes a number of questions linked to cooperation and coordination between the member states, as well as the situation in the Arabian Gulf, the Iraq-Iran war and its resulting effects, and ways of approaching the conflict to end it quickly and peacefully. The ministers will discuss the current Arab situation in light of the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman on 8 November, and the significance of following up its many positive results.

2d Preparatory Meeting Held

LD220939 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0826 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Dec (KUNA)—This morning, the GCC foreign ministers resumed their talks here by holding a second preparatory meeting. This session is helping to plan for the eighth session of the GCC leaders, which will take place in Riyadh next Saturday.

Today's meeting was presided over by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, due to his position as current chairman of the GCC Ministerial Council. The meeting was a closed one.

The ministers held their first meeting here last night to discuss the economic, financial, and administrative matters on their agenda.

In today's closed session, they will discuss the remaining items on the agenda of the GCC Ministerial Council.

Kuwait

Iraqi Foreign Minister 'Aziz Arrives 22 Dec

LD220945 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0919 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Dec (KUNA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here at noon today on a short visit. During his stay, he will convey a message to his highness the amir from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Asim Ya'qub Yusif, Iraqi ambasador to Kuwait, were on hand to greet him.

Presents Amir With Message

LD221041 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Today at 1000, the amir of Kuwait received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. 'Aziz gave the amir a message from his brother, President Saddam Husayn. Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait also attended this meeting.

PDRY

Soviet Official Karen Brutents Begins Visit

EA211548 Aden ANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Aden, 21 Dec (ANA)—Comrade Karen Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, arrived in Aden this morning. He will remain in our country for several days and will hold talks with various YSP officials.

He was received on his arrival by Comrades 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylani, deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Dr Najib Ahmad 'Ubayd, chief of the Central Committee Department for Socialist Europe; and Albert Rachkov, Soviet ambassador to Aden.

Received by Al-Bid

EA211834 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, received a CPSU delegation led by Comrade Karen Brutents at his office this afternoon. Brutents is a candidate member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary [title as heard] of the CPSU Central Committee. The leader of the Soviet delegation then delivered a verbal message from the Soviet leadership.

During the meeting, the secretary general welcomed the delegation and praised the strong comradely relations linking the two friendly parties and peoples, as well as the sincere internationalist support provided by the USSR to the PDRY in all fields. Al-Bid also expressed his satisfaction with the successes achieved by the USSR in the process of change, as well as in matters connected with nuclear disarmament and ending the arms race, as reflected in the signing of the INF treaty.

For his part, Comrade Brutents expressed his admiration for the achievements of the PDRY on the road to socialism, as well as its successes in the international arena. The two sides additionally discussed the outcome of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington. Comrade Brutents referred to the significance of the summit for international peace.

During the meeting, they also discussed a number of issues and subjects of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Dr Salih Muhsin, member of the YSP Central Committee and director of the Office of the Secretary General; and Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to Aden. [passage omitted]

Arab Lawyers Union Says Prisoners 'Well-Treated'

EA192315 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A delegation of the Arab Lawyers Union, which was led by its secretary general, Brother Faruq Mustafa Abu 'Isa, departed Aden last night after visiting our country for several days.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Faruq Mustafa Abu 'Isa noted: The circumstances of our short visit have enabled us to meet with Brother President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, minister of justice and waqfs; Dr Mustafa 'Abd al-Khaliq, president of the Supreme Court of the Republic; and other officials and sons and daughters of these struggling people, these people who guard this pioneering experiment in this corner of our Arab nation. [passage omitted]

He added: In the remaining 48 hours of our visit, the brother officials in Democratic Yemen allowed us to meet with those persons either sentenced to death or to lesser sentences. We met them in the prison in the portion set aside for them. It is only fair to state that we found them well-treated and were able to question them directly. They assured us that they were well treated. We also saw with our own eyes that what was made available to them was not only the bare minimum that a prisoner, a sentenced person, or a political detainee deserves, but more than that. This is a commendable act, one for which we thank the political leadership of Democratic Yemen. [passage omitted]

Qatar

'Senior' PLO Officials Begin Visit

JN191657 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Doha, Dec 19 (GNA)—Two senior Palestinian officials arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Qatar in the context of an Arab and Gulf tour aimed at materializing a unified pan Arab stand in support of the current popular uprising in the occupied lands.

The officials were Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Salim al-Za'nun, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

In a statement upon arrival here, 'Abbas told QATAR NEWS AGENCY that the current visit to Qatar came in the context of a tour started in Cairo to discuss the outcome of last month's Amman Arab summit and muster support for the current heroic popular uprising in the occupied lands.

Saudi Arabia

UN Gulf Resolution 'Conflict of Interests'

LD202344 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] The UN Security Council is expected to meet tomorrow, Monday, to discuss developments in the Iraq-Iran war in the light of Resolution 598, which calls for a peaceful solution to end the war.

Although 5 months have already passed since the UN Security Council adopted its famous Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and urges the two sides to solve their dispute peacefully, this measure is still waiting to be implemented. Not only that, but this very problem is likely to become internationalized. This is a matter that arouses attention and clearly displays the extent of the dangerous dimensions of the war that are now becoming evident. Implementation of the aforementioned resolution is linked to a conflict of interests among the very powers that produced it.

On the basis of these facts, to say that the Security Council is holding a meeting tomorrow to discuss the possibility of issuing a resolution—one that would include measures that implement Resolution 598—would give the observer a feeling of perplexity mixed with pessimism. This attempt to issue a measure that follows the previous one is indeed a strange exercise. It also clearly demonstrates the failure of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which issued the previous resolution, to be fully convinced of the danger represented by the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. However, the points of this resolution are clear and coherent in their sequence. This in itself is thus another clear indication of the failure of the states that produced the resolution to overcome their haggling, which aims at preserving their respective gains from the continuation of the conflict. These benefits are obtained by supplying the two warring sides with arms and equipment in the largest commercial operation that has been seen in our time—regardless of the human and material losses that the two combatants are still suffering.

In this respect, some are attempting to rally around the UN Security Council resolution. This is the case with the Soviet Union, which refuses to punish the Iranian regime for its refusal to implement the resolution. These attempts, which seek to undermine the Security Council measure in order to reap further gains, compel the suspects to agree on the adoption of another resolution. This measure calls for implementing another resolution, one that those benefiting from the war are seeking to obstruct and to push into the labyrinth of reciprocal haggling. Each side believes it is better at annoying the other—in order to force it to leave this beneficial situation—either by bringing pressure to bear on it through its presence in the combat zone, or by the decision of the Tehran leaders to abandon themselves and capitulate to the orders of the Soviets, with the hope of attaining the victory they dream of but have no real hope of achieving.

The whole issue is thus a conflict of interests between the powers that produced the resolution and that also appear determined to achieve further gains. This is reinforced to varying degrees by the foolishness and confusion of the Tehran rulers.

United Arab Emirates

Council of Ministers Approves 1987 Budget

JN211712 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] In its ordinary meeting today, which was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, the deputy prime minister, the Council of Ministers approved the state's general budget for fiscal 1987, as well as different budget supplements. Expenses for this year have been estimated at 14,421,323,000 dirhams. The UAE's general budget revenues for fiscal 1987 were estimated at 11,066,400,000 dirhams.

The Council of Ministers also approved a memorandum by his excellency the minister of finance and industry, as well as the enclosed UAE draft law on the state's final statement of account for fiscal 1984. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Official 'Abdallah Begins Visit

Gives Message to President

JN192112 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress,

today received at his office Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland. 'Abdallah conveyed a message to the president from his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and the members of the YSP Political Bureau in the southern part of the homeland. The message concerned several issues of interest to both parts of the homeland.

Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and member of the Standing Committee, also attended the meeting.

Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah arrived in Sanaa today. He was received by Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the Bureau for Affairs of Yemeni Unity; and a number of officials.

Meets With 'Abd al-Ghani

JN201433 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, this morning received Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the [YSP] Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of our homeland. During their talks, they discussed a number of issues and the latest developments of interest to the two parts of the homeland. Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and member of the Standing Committee, also attended the meeting.

Departs Sanaa 21 Dec

JN211332 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of our homeland, has departed the country following a visit to the capital, Sanaa. During his stay, he delivered a letter from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Brother Fadl Muhsin told SABA he met with Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Ahmad al-Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Yemeni unity affairs member of the Central Committee.

Fadl Mushin added that they had discussed topics of interest to the two parts of Yemen, and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi and the head of the Office of Unity Affairs saw him off.

President Chairs RCC-Ba'th Party Meeting

JN211940 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this evening chaired a meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The meeting dealt with developments in the international stance on the Iranian aggression and on Security Council Resolution 598, particularly the Soviet and U.S. stands. The meeting also dealt with the Arab sitaution and Arab relations.

Reportage on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani

Received by 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN191532 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim this morning received Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]. During the meeting, they discussed fraternal bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, and the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

The RCC vice chairman affirmed the eagerness of Iraq and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to see Sudan united and to see its territorial integrity immune from any efforts to undermine it. He said that unified pan-Arab stands are the ways to defend the nation and its interests against any aggression, regardless of its source. The RCC vice chairman said Iraq is currently standing on the front to defend its sovereignty against the Zionist Iranian aggression, which represents the most prominent link of conspiracy against pan-Arab security.

Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani expressed his great admiration of the steadfastness of courageous Iraq in its confrontation of the aggression at a time when it is reiterating its faith in peace—a matter which is gaining the esteem and support of the international community. Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani presented the circumstances under which Sudan is living and the external challenges facing it.

Official Talks Begin

JN192210 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The official and party talks between Iraq and Sudan began today. The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, while the Sudanese side was headed by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the DUP.

The two sides voiced satisfaction with the progress of the developed bilateral relations. They stressed the need to promote these ties in all fields in the interest of both states and to bolster joint Arab action. Ramadan and Al-Mirghani reiterated the emphasis being laid by Iraq and Sudan on the need to unify our ranks and escalate the struggle in the face of the imminent dangers facing the Arab nation. They said this should be done by implementing the resolutions adopted at the extraordinary Amman Arab summit, as this summit constitutes an important phase in this regard.

The two sides hailed the popular uprising in occupied Palestine and reiterated their solidarity with and support for the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable legitimate rights.

The first deputy prime minister reviewed the developments of the Iranian aggression, Iraq's constant stand, and its eagerness to bring about peace and implement UN Security Council Resolution 598. He added that Iraq's capabilities have doubled during the war years and that Iraq is maintaining a high level of preparedness to defeat any new adventure that the enemy may try to launch. The first deputy prime minister reiterated Iraq's support for Sudan's efforts, which seek to preserve its unity and which reject any intervention in the country's internal affairs or attempts to undermine its sovereignty.

Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese DUP, asserted Sudan's support for Iraq in its heroic confrontation of the Iranian aggression, which is targeted at the Arab nation, its sovereignty, and its security. Al-Mirghani reviewed the situation in southern Sudan, the aggressions to which it is being subjected, and the efforts being exerted to preserve Sudan's unity and sovereignty.

The talks also dealt with the ways to bolster bilateral relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Sudanese DUP. The two sides agreed to hold further meetings to enhance bilateral cooperation and joint struggle.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil, Health Minister Sadiq Hamid 'Allush, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the director of the Foreign Relations Desk at the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

They were attended on the Sudanese side by Dr Husayn Abu Salih, health minister; Al-Amin Rabi', DUP Political Bureau member; Khalafallah Rashid and Al-Faki Mustafa, DUP advisers; Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman, secretary general of the Al-Khatmiyah sect; Yusuf Badr and Mukhtar 'Abdallah Ibrahim, two deputies of the Constituent Assembly; 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad, member of the DUP General Secretariat; and a number of officials.

Taha Yasin Ramadan had earlier held a closed meeting with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN201427 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani expressing heartfelt brotherly wishes for the president and the Iraqi people on their total victory. The message was conveyed to his excellency the president by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese DUP, during his meeting with the president. During the meeting, they discussed fraternal relations between the two countries, as well as the situation in southern Sudan.

The leader president stressed Iraq's support for Sudan's unity and territorial integrity and condemned foreign interference in Sudan's domestic affairs. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the president's secretary.

Ba'th Party, DUP Confer

JN201437 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] A round of talks between the Ba'th Party delegation and a Sudanese DUP delegation took place today. The two sides stressed their mutual desire to promote cooperation and coordination between the two parties, increase contacts, and exchange the experiences of popular organizations supervised by the two parties in both fraternal countries. The Ba'th Party delegation was headed by the director of the foreign relations office of the Party's National Command. The DUP delegation was headed by Al-Amir Rabi', member of the Party's Political Bureau.

The Sudanese party delegation currently visiting Iraq is headed by DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

Defense Minister Receives Soviet Official

JN201423 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, received the Soviet charge d'affaires this morning. During the meeting, they discussed how to promote friendly relations and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union in all fields.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

3 Iranians Killed

JN211430 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed three Iranian soldiers and wounded two others in the operational sectors. In a statement to INA here this afternoon, an Iraqi military spokesman said the Iraqi forces had also destroyed five infantry positions and one SPG-9 gun emplacement.

Iranian Forces 'Wiped Out'

JN211733 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1641 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA)—Iraqi forces in the area of Duwayrij, in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, wiped out most of the Iranian forces that had attempted to attack Iraqi positions this morning.

A military spokesman told INA this evening that the situation was completely settled in favor of the Iraqi forces, which had encircled the Iranian forces in no-man's-land and isolated them with artillery and armored vehicle fire before they were able to attack Iraqi formations. The spokesman said the Iraqi forces in the area immediately confronted the Iranian forces' attack at 0640 [0340 GMT] today with intensive fire. They encircled the Iranians after cutting off their supply routes. Most of the Iranian forces were wiped out even before they were able to reach the forward observation posts in no-man's-land.

The spokesman added that the Iranian forces fell between an intensive fire barrage behind and above them. They were also caught between Iraqi minefields and the strong Iraqi defenses opposite them, thereby sustaining casualties in excess of 1,200 killed. He said that contrary to Iranian claims, only 13 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, for the Iraqi forces did not clash directly with the Iranian forces. The spokesman emphasized that for the second time in 2 days Iraq has proved that its defenses are strong and that its positions are impregnable. Iraq has also proved its superiority and its readiness to repulse any Iranian offensive, he added.

The spokesman reported that the Iranians had sustained in two futile adventures more than 3,000 casualties, whereas Iraq had sustained no more than 40 casualties in the two battles due to the fortified Iraqi postions.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman asserted that if the Iranians continue to launch such attacks, they will sustain huge losses without any gain and without occupying an inch of land. The events of the past 2 days are the best proof, he added.

Communique No 2,958

JN211749 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,958 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces have continued to carry out their combat activities in the operational sectors. The results of these activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. Three infantry positions were destroyed, killing or wounding their occupants in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. In the II Army Corps central sector, two enemy soldiers were killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

3. One SPG-9 gun emplacement and one infantry position were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. In the VII Army Corps sector, one scoundrel was killed and two others wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 December 1987

Iranian Attack 'Foiled'

JN221150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Forces have foiled an Iranian attempt to approach Iraqi positions in the central sector and forced them to retreat inside Iranian territory.

In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the Iraqi forces killed more than 200 men of this Iranian force yesterday, Monday. The spokesman added that this force had been attempting to approach the no-man's-land area before Iraqi positions in the II Army Corps central sector and that the Iraqi forces confronted it and forced it to retreat.

The Iraqi military spokesman pointed out that the Iranian regime's forces are trying to compensate for their losses on the battlefield yesterday and the day before yesterday. These forces began carrying out their well-known crimes by shelling civilians with long-range artillery. He said the Iranians shelled the villages of Khanaqin and Qazaniyah [name as received] today with long-range artillery and that the shelling wounded three civilians and damaged several houses.

Communique No 2,959

JN221304 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1154 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,959 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great. May God be praised for his grace and for the great victory He granted to the struggler and patient Iraqis. O lofty Iraqis, your valiant forces are recording the most splendid epics and victories and inflicting shameful defeats on the scoundrel Khomeyniites on all battlefronts. At the same time, your Air Force, whose courage, might, and accurate performance is known by all friends and the force which has inflicted bitter defeats on the enemies, has not stopped; it will continue to wield the sword of right against injustice and the evildoers. It is as you have always known it would be, capable of destroying the enemy's remnants, crushing their economic resources deep inside their territory, and flying to remote islands to destroy the enemy's ports and oil resources, which the charlatans use for their aggressive purposes.

O glorious Iraqis, it is the 3d day of the great victory which this time is being recorded by your heroic Air Force, to be added to its series of good deeds and to be a bitter stab to the aggressor Iranian regime. At 1300 [1000 GMT] today, a large number of our planes flew to remote Larak Island, which is more than 1,200 kms away from our international border. Your brave sons and hawks, the soldiers of great leader Saddam Husayn, traveled this great distance to penetrate the enemy air defenses and to drop their indignation and their devastating bombs onto the floating oil reservoirs off the coasts of this island—these reservoirs which are used to supply the gigantic oil tankers with exported Iranian oil.

With their skill, our hawks dropped their bombs directly onto these targets, destroying them, setting them ablaze, and leaving thick smoke billowing from them. Your hawks made this day a black day for the scoundrel Khomeyniites who thought this area and these gigantic reservoirs would be saved from the Iraqi blows. After carrying out this great heroic mission, our hawks returned with their planes safely and triumphantly to the homeland, protected by God.

O scoundrel Khomeyniites, you cannot save yourselves from God's wrath and from the devastating blows which are dealt to you by the people of leader Saddam Husayn and his heroic fighters. Long live good deeds, O men of Saddam Husayn, the heroes of our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. You are the men and heroes of good deeds. You are God's wrath upon His enemies and the enemies of our country. Long live our great leader. Long live our heroic Air Force and glory to our people and their Armed Force. Praise be to God.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 December 1987

Lloyds Confirms Larak Raid

JN221351 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpt] London, 22 Dec (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance Company announced here today that three giant oil tankers used by Iran as reservoirs for Iranian oil were hit by Iraqi missiles today. The British company said that as a result of the aerial attack on Larak Island at noon today, the two giant Liberian oil tankers "World Petrobras" and "Seawise Giant" and the giant Cypriot oil tanker "White Rose" were damaged. The British company said these oil tankers were used as reservoirs for Iranian oil near the coast of the remote Larak Island.

Lloyds said that the 411,508-tonne Liberian tanker "World Petrobras" was built in 1977 and can hold 217,729 tonnes of crude oil. The other Liberian oil tanker can hold 326,181 tonnes of crude oil. The Cypriot tanker is a 216,976-tonne reservoir. [passage omitted]

Further Incidents, Reports on Continuing Unrest

Clashes Inside Green Line

TA211337 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Rafi Levi, the spokesman for the Jerusalem Police District, says that the situation in East Jerusalem is slowly calming down. Our correspondents Moshe Nussbaum and Moti Amir report that the disturbances had earlier centered on two sites: the neighborhood of Al-Tur and the village of Hizma near Pisgat Ze'ev. A Border Police unit entered the Al-Tur neighborhood and forcibly dispersed a gathering of youths who had been hurling stones. Three stone throwers were arrested and a local inhabitant was wounded in the head.

In Hizma, near Pisgat Ze'ev, a security forces contingent entered the village and detained a few rioters. Two of them were arrested. The contingent used a large amount of tear gas.

Meanwhile, our correspondents have reported on several disturbances within the boundaries of the Green Line as well. On the main 'Afula-Hadera road near the town of Umm al-Fahm, the security forces dispersed a crowd of some 3,000 people. Two policemen were slightly injured. The road remains closed to traffic.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that there are still several gatherings in Nazareth. The police are now dispersing them. Earlier, several hundred Arabs attacked the local police station and pelted it with stones. Two vehicles were damaged.

Disturbances also took place in Lod and Yafo. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a police jeep was pelted with stones in Lod. The police arrested six of the assailants. Tires were set on fire in several places in Lod. In Yafo, stones were thrown at vehicles. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Protest in North Arab Towns

TA191608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] This afternoon in Nazareth a demonstration organized by HADASH took place in which the participants expressed solidarity with residents of the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the demonstrators carried placards and banners calling for the withdrawal of the IDF from all the territories and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

There were gatherings and meetings in several other Arab towns in the north in solidarity with the residents of the territories.

4 Injured, 19 Arrested in Yafo

TA211916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Four little girls sustained slight injuries on Yefet Street in Yafo when a bus in which schoolchildren were traveling was stoned. The girls were taken to the hospital. In the unrest in Yafo today, a policeman was injured and 19 demonstrators were arrested, including an 8-year-old boy. In the afternoon, police used truncheons to disperse a large demonstration on Yefet Street.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that six youths from Lod were released from detention this evening after negotiations between Assistant Commander Hayim Klein, commander of the Coastal Plain District Police, and notables from Lod's Arab neighborhoods. The commander of the district noted that this was a gesture of goodwill and that the police want to give full backing to representatives of the Arab neighborhoods. The Coastal Plain District Police today arrested 21 people suspected of participating in riots, most of them from the Arab neighborhoods of Neve Yaraq and Harakevet in Lod.

IDF Presence To Grow

TA211929 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1909 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] In its actions from now on, the IDF will send a message to the residents of Judaea and Samaria that it will no longer permit a minority to disrupt public order and the way of life of the majority of the inhabitants. This was announced tonight by a senior military source.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that the source said the IDF would introduce more forces into the territories so that it can react faster to a large number of incidents. The military source also said that the restraint displayed by the IDF over the past 10 days was misperceived and seen as a sign of weakness. The source stressed, however, that orders on opening fire would be carefully observed.

Summary of 21 Dec Incidents

TA212000 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Violent demonstrations on an unprecedented scale were registered today in many Arab settlements, from Nazareth in the north to Rahat in the south. They were all held within the framework of Peace Day, as proclaimed by the committee of Arab local councils as a token of solidarity with the inhabitants of the territories.

A large police force dispersed a mass demonstration in Nazareth by using tear gas and water cannon. Several hundred demonstrators pelted the local police station and blocked the city's main road. A dozen rioters were detained.

In 'Akko, several Palestinian flags were hoisted. Beginning at around noon, the main thoroughfare along Wadi 'Ara was blocked for approximately 2 hours. Policemen drove stone throwers away to the hills on either side of the road.

In the village of Abu Ghaush near Jerusalem, schoolchildren threw stones at vehicles. In Bayt Safafa, a village bordering Jerusalem, a train was likewise stoned.

There were incidents of youths rioting in Lod, Ramla, and Yafo.

In the south, burning tires and stone barricades disrupted traffic in the Bedouin town of Rahat.

Riots Erupt in Jabalyah

TA212008 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] This afternoon an enraged mob attacked an IDF patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. Five youths were wounded as the soldiers were forced to direct fire at the rioters' feet. Prior to that incident, the Gaza Strip was generally quiet today, although there was a general commercial strike throughout the Gaza Strip.

10 Wounded by IDF Fire

TA212044 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Two IDF soldiers sustained moderate wounds when inhabitants of the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip hurled stones at them. IDF soldiers fired in the direction of the stone throwers. Ten people were wounded by the shots.

100 Arabs Arrested 21 Dec

TA220544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The police say they will be out in full force again today in Arab villages. Yesterday, 20 police officers were injured in violent incidents within the Green Line. One of the officers was seriously hurt, while three others sustained moderate injuries. Some 100 people were arrested in the disturbances.

Tougher IDF Measures Expected

TA220608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Army plans to implement tougher measures in Judaea and Samaria to end the current wave of unrest. The measures come as senior Army officers were taken by surprise by the scope and intensity of yesterday's general strike throughout the area. Three Arabs were killed during violent demonstrations and attacks on Army and border patrol police. More on the new Army response from reporter Steve Rodan:

Starting from today, military units in Judaea and Samaria are expected to respond more quickly and with more force to Arab disturbances. The feeling among senior officers is that they have underestimated the scope and intensity of the nearly 2 weeks of violent anti-Israel demonstrations. For days, senior officers have been waiting for the wave of unrest to die down. Then came yesterday, which clearly took military authorities by surprise. The commercial strikes in Judaea and Samaria were total. Everything stopped: businesses, schools, public transportation. Then came the violence, particularly in the north and west of Samaria. [passage omitted]

A military source said the Army had learned its lesson. The restraint the Army has displayed in the area, combined with the huge international condemnation of Israeli policy in the territories, had led Palestinian activists to believe that anything goes. The source said that in the next few days the Army will take several steps to prove to the 830,000 residents of Judaea and Samaria that it is in control. What this means are more arrests, administrative detentions, and deportations. Then, the source said, the populace will know that the Army means business.

Strike in East Jerusalem

TA220908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A partial commercial strike and total school strike are under way in East Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports, however, that no incidents have been reported so far.

Janin Death Toll Rises to 4

TA221155 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] One of the people wounded in yesterday's incident in Janin, in which Molotov cocktails were thrown and shots were fired, has died. This brings the total number of people who died as a result of this incident to four.

There were disturbances in several places in Judaea and Samaria this morning. Youths erected roadblocks, set tires on fire, and threw stones at vehicles and the security forces. The riots centered around the Ramallah area. The security forces dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Civilian Administration has closed down all 800 schools in Judaea and Samaria until Sunday morning due to the riots which took place near the educational institutes. Residents of Har Adar near Jerusalem have complained that again this morning they were unable to pass through the narrow streets of the village of Biddu because of roadblocks and youths throwing stones at vehicles leaving the settlement.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that an Egged bus was stoned in the Shu'fat area in northern Jerusalem this morning. One of its windows was smashed, but there were no casualties. The youths who threw the stones were dispersed with tear gas. A school strike and a partial commercial strike were staged in East Jerusalem.

West Bank Colleges Closed

TA221229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Commander of the Central Command 'Amram Mitzna' this morning ordered several educational institutions in Judaea and Samaria to close down for 1 month because of recent disturbances that took place in and around these institutions. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the institutions affected are the Abu Dis College in Bethlehem and the Al-Tirah Teachers College, the Al-Shuyukhi College, and another teachers college in Ramallah.

Youths Wounded in Hebron

TA221624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Youths from the villages of Yattah and Idnah staged a violent demonstration in the southern Mount Hebron area, throwing stones at an IDF unit. The latter opened fire, wounding two rioters. Another person later arrived at the hospital claiming he had been wounded by the fire.

Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that a disturbance also took place in the refugee camp in the town of Janin in Samaria. A firebomb was thrown at a Border Police patrol. The policemen opened fire, wounding the firebomb thrower.

Leaders Comment; Editorials on Wave of Violence

Peres 'Regrets' Arab Strike

TA220646 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday expressed regret over the protest strike by the Israeli Arab sector. Peres called for the wave of violence in Judaea and Samaria to subside and for the use of force to be avoided as much as possible. Our correspondent Natan Gutman spoke with Minister Peres:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] How do you think Israel should deal with the growing wave of international denunciations of the events in the territories?

[Peres] First, we must immediately reduce the level of violence as much as possible. Our policy has always been to avoid the use of force as much as possible, to maintain the maximum level of dialogue, and to strive toward peaceful coexistence, and this has not changed. Things are very serious. There is no doubt that fatalities, injuries, and violence fuel these feelings.

[Gutman] How do you regard the fact that Israeli Arabs have joined the struggle of the residents of the territories?

[Peres] I view this with regret. I do not think it is good. Israeli Arabs are full Israeli citizens, and I hope this is a passing phenomenon. [end recording]

Rabin Comments on Unrest

TA220601 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Returning from the United States late last night, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear that anyone continuing to resort to violence was assuming a very serious responsibility. He said he had not brought forward his return because he could not be replaced for the mission he had undertaken in the United States, and the prime minister and the chief of staff here could handle the situation without difficulty. On his assessment of developments here and what could be done he gave this interview to reporter Alon Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Rabin, picked up in progress] ...will not give in 1 millimeter as long as there is no public order prevailing in the territories and, no doubt, in Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Could this include then, perhaps, extending curfews to large areas of the territories, deportations?

[Rabin] I would not elaborate about measures. I believe the goal is to make sure that the lesson that through violence and terror nothing will be achieved. Whoever would like to participate, on the part of the Palestinians, wherever they reside, in violent public disorder, they take the risk on their own. I know it is very unpopular whenever there are casualties, especially fatal casualties among so-called civilians. It does not help the public relations of Israel in various circles in the world. I see the highest priority, regardless to this consideration, to make sure that public order will prevail for all the population, Jews and Arabs alike, in the territories.

[Ben-'Ami] Among those so-called civilians there were also youngsters as young as their early teens or even less.

[Rabin] Look, we will try to distinguish between children, women, and others, but allow me to make clear: Israel offers to Jordan, to the Palestinians that are not declared members of the PLO—because with the PLO we will not negotiate—an option; we are ready to solve the conflict between you and us around the negotiation table. Therefore, it's another situation that they are pushed to the wall; they have got the opportunity to sit around the negotiation table and to discuss the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the bilateral level between Jordan, the Palestinians who reside in the territories, and

Israel. If they believe that through terror and violence they are going to achieve, we will make it clear to them: They will not achieve, their suffering will be increased, and instead of creating conditions that allow them to live peacefully, as long as political situation has not been achieved, they will suffer more and more.

[Ben-'Ami] How do you view the fact that the violence has spread even to the Arab community in Israel proper: Yafo, Lod? Today there were demonstrations and violence there.

[Rabin] Well, I would not ignore that it creates a problem to Israel. We have to cope with it, and every legal measure—legal from the Israeli point of view—is justified to put an end to it. [end recording]

Blames Iran, Iraq, Syria, PLO

TA221111 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 87 pp 1, 6

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday warned the Arabs of the territories and Israeli Arabs that he intends to use all the measures, even painful ones, to ensure order, and clarified that they will achieve nothing through terrorism and violence.

In a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport last night, Rabin assessed the situation as follows: "My assessment, on the basis of the events, is that the disturbances and violence have a clear political orientation, behind which stand Iran, Iraq, Syria, and mainly the PLO."

Rabin said he believes that we are witnessing an attempt by hostile elements to put the Israeli-Arab conflict back at the center of international awareness, and that there is no point in trying to obfuscate the duration and extent of the disturbances. [passage omitted]

Shamir on U.S. Vote in UN

TA211414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that if the United States does not unequivocally voice its reservations about the proposed condemnation the UN Security Council is scheduled to issue this evening, it will be encouraging extremist elements operating in the region that are stirring up unrest and harming Israel. The prime minister said he did not know whether the administration in Washington has decided to abstain from vetoing the proposed condemnation, but he nevertheless voiced the hope that the administration would take this consideration into account.

Mr Shamir also hopes the Foreign Ministry will not reprimand Israel's UN Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu for his remarks that Egypt uses tougher methods to quell riots. The prime minister pointed out that Netanyahu might be the most important, successful, and brilliant representative Israel has in the international arena, and he should be encouraged and supported. Mr Shamir was speaking at the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum; his remarks were reported by our correspondent Dan Eshel.

Shomron Urges Patience

TA211344 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has said that patience and forbearance are called for in dealing with the situation in the territories. Lt Gen Shomron added that the main problem is to prevent the killing and wounding of local inhabitants because such incidents play into the hands of the instigators. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the chief of staff made these remarks during a tour of the centers of unrest in Judaea and Samaria.

Lt Gen Shomron refused to reply to questions about the scope of the riots, saying that the strike is full and there are many incidents of stone throwing and tire burning.

Beilin Interviewed on Unrest

TA191234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by David Essing; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Essing] Dr Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry director general [as heard], like other Israeli officials, is optimistic the rioting will die down.

[Beilin] We all have to take into account that the situation we are confronting, that our soldiers are confronting in the territories, especially in Gaza, is not a very usual situation, that they are confronting with huge numbers sometimes of people who demonstrate there, and that they have to react to defend themselves. I believe, I know that there are orders to prevent from firing as possible, and to minimize the victims as possible.

[Essing] Do you have any idea why these serious demonstrations and riots have begun at this time?

[Beilin] Well, I believe the beginning was an accident, a car accident in Gaza, in which four local inhabitants were killed, and that rumors were spread afterwards that behind this clash there was some political intention or malice, which is wrong of course. I believe that this created the first demonstrations, first in Gaza, afterwards in the West Bank. It was almost immediately exploited by the PLO outside the territories in order to encourage the continuation of those demonstrations and those disturbances. Perhaps also because of the date, the 1st of January, which is the anniversary of the PLO.

[Essing] There has been sharp international criticism of what's been happening in the territories in the United States and elsewhere. How badly tarnished, do you think, Israel's image is going to come out of this situation?

[Beilin] We are now in a low point. I hope that the whole occurrences will end, and then the situation of Israel vis-a-vis the image point of view will change significantly too. It is, as you very well know, very difficult to defend a case when parallel to this you see wounded bodies or coffins and crying families. It is very difficult, it is very sad too, for all of us, and we know the limitations for our explanations and information which is given accurately to those who ask, to the embassies, to foreign reporters and so forth. A situation in which a coffin becomes a flag for those who encourage those demonstrations is always difficult to explain or to put an end to such a situation, but since, I am sure, that the majority of the inhabitants in Gaza would not like to see a continuation of this situation, I believe that we are in the end of this difficult time for all of us.

[Essing] What effect do you think this is going to have on the overall peace process?

[Beilin] I think, it is my feeling and it is subjective of course, but I believe that those who encourage the demonstrations, the disturbances, are those who do not want to see a real peace process in our area, that those who are afraid of any sign of moderation, those who would like to encourage the confrontations, who are afraid of the peace process, who would like to perpetuate the situation, and I hope that they will not succeed.

[Essing] We have been talking before about the problem of putting down these disturbances. Is Israel then not facing a dilemma in trying to maintain law and order in the territories, while, at the same time, trying to further the peace process, in light of what you have said?

[Beilin] No, I don't think so, I don't see the contradiction. On the contrary, I believe that as long as it is easier for us to keep the territories in a better situation, with a higher quality of life, in a peaceful situation, it is also easier for us to promote the peace process. When those disturbances are there, all our mental resources, intellectual resources, whatever you want, is directed to only one thing, to keep law and order in the territories, and it diverts perhaps the interests and the efforts from the continuation of the peace process to dealing with the daily disturbances in the territories.

Shamir Rejects Military Rule

TA211140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir has no intention of raising the proposal made by Likud caucus chairman Hayim Kaufman to reimpose the military government on Israeli Arabs in Galilee. This was declared today by the Prime Minister's Office. Kaufman voiced his proposal in response to the general strike taking place in Israel today. The military government was established in the early years of the state by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, and was later abolished. The Likud caucus in the Knesset this morning also rejected the Kaufman plan. [passage omitted]

'Silent Majority' Observed

JN211014 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 20 Dec 87

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] There are various meanings and reasons for the continuation of the 11th day of the riots, violence, and disturbances in the administrated areas and in East Jerusalem. We cannot discuss all of them here. However, there are two things worth discussing.

First, as a result of stupidity and recklessness, the minority who agitate and participate in these negative acts deliberately ignore two basic facts. The first is that riots, violence, and disturbances did not in the past, nor will they now or in the future, advance one inch the solution to the Palestinian problem. The solution to the Palestinian problem will never come through violating security and public discipline, nor through burning tires or hurling stones, nor through any riot and disturbance. Sooner or later, the solution will only come through peaceful understanding and negotiations. We say, therefore, that every single victim is a loss.

The second fact is that the Israeli authorities, in accordance with international law, are responsible for public security and discipline in the administrated areas. These authorities will not hesitate to perform their duties and assume their responsibility.

The continuation of the riots and disturbances means that the silent majority of Palestinians, the realistic and reasonable majority, has not assumed its role of enlightening and advising people. This majority has not sufficiently warned of the pitfalls along the road of that noisy minority, whether they are misled youths, destructive negative elements, or plotters, who are fanning the sedition to undermine the fruitful coexistence between the Israelis and Palestinians. This failure by the realistic and reasonable Palestinian majority is not justifiable even if this majority is exposed to mental and physical terrorism by the noisy minority or by the organizations of terrorism and destruction. As it did in the past, this majority will eventually pay the largest price for the riots and disturbances.

Continuing the riots and disturbances will lead to the edge of a dangerous abyss. All those who wish the Palestinians and Israelis well hope that realism, wisdom, and reason will triumph, that the seekers of sedition and enemies of coexistence will be deprived of their opportunity; and that the arena will not be left for the

tampering of plotters, misled people, extremists, and crazy people. By leaving the arena for those people there is the danger of falling into the abyss, and of serious consequences to everybody.

'Real Causes' Unveiled

TA211309 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Interpretations and Justifications"]

[Text] Incidents and the death of innocent victims continued for the 9th consecutive day in the occupied Arab territories. Undoubtedly these incidents, coupled with local, regional, and international concern, have proved that the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with their 1.5 million Palestinian residents, are the most significant problem facing Israel.

A number of Israeli politicians and decisionmakers tried to cover up these incidents by placing the blame on Arab countries, the PLO, and foreign news media. This proposition, however, did not find open ears even in the United States, Israel's strategic ally. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy stated that the cause of the incidents stems from the Palestinian people's desire to be liberated from occupation.

In a talk with the BBC yesterday, Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and a Labor Party leader, said that the direct cause of the incidents lies in the Palestinian people's aspiration to end the occupation and exercise their rights. When asked his opinion on the interpretation expressed by head of state Hayim Herzog during his visit to Britain, in which Herzog said that the news media had blown incidents caused by outside elements out of proportion, Eban answered: Had the head of state been in the country, he would have realized the true proportion of the events in the occupied territories. He would have acknowledged that their causes stem from the absence of elements for a political solution guaranteeing Palestinian rights.

The White House spokeswoman described the innocent victims as having been killed due to a fierce communal conflict. We do not know according to which political, geographical, and social basis the United States functions, but what is taking place in the occupied territories is not a conflict between religions. Rather it is a political conflict produced by more than 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. If the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State acknowledges this, why do such statements emanate from the White House?

The reason behind such statements, which are out of touch with reality, stems from the desire by the White House to evade the real causes of the tragic incidents. Just as justifications that are out of touch with reality appeared in the Israeli analysis of the incidents, so too did odd interpretations appear in Washington.

We believe that the common denominator between Israel's justifications and Washington's interpretations is an unwillingness to acknowledge the real causes represented by the wish of the Palestinian people to be liberated from occupation and to exercise their national and human rights in freedom. Such an acknowledgment would mean accelerating the convocation of an international peace conference, something strongly opposed by both Tel Aviv and Washington.

Ben-Aharon on Egypt, Husayn Moscow Trip

TA210621 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Interview with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Me'ir Kohen on 20 December; place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Kohen] Sir, the riots in the territories led to a wave of strong protests around the world. Protests were launched by Egypt, too. What is your attitude toward Egypt's protests?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, this is natural. Egypt is an Arab country. Involved here are Arabs—Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—and there is a degree of solidarity which is familiar to us. After all, we do not want to cut these Arabs off from the Arab world. The fact is that everything is open to scrutiny. We have an Egyptian Embassy here. The ambassador and his people go places and see exactly what is going on in the area. Ours is an open country, unlike any other Arab country facing a similar situation. Another country would have declared a state of emergency, and the situation would have been very different. We, however, are an open country. Television crews are filming and the Egyptian ambassador can observe. We did not want such a situation to develop. Egypt can best influence matters by dissociating itself from the PLO and by driving the PLO out of Egypt, rather than by allowing the PLO flag to be raised there. In this way we, together with Egypt and Jordan, will be able to reach a lasting solution which will be the only way out of this situation.

[Kohen] Mr Director General, in the wake of the Amman summit, an attempt was made by the Arab countries to prove that the Arab world wants to live in peace with Israel, while Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is opposed to peace. What is your reaction to this?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, I saw these reports, and they are untrue. The truth is, first of all, that the summit was not as moderate as it looked. We have information—and the Arab world, at least the governments in the Arab world, know—that in the summit decisions King Husayn met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad halfway. Those summit resolutions which were not made public are extreme ones which adopt the Soviet version of the international conference idea. King Husayn also promised Al-Asad that he will not do anything that Al-Asad would not like.

In other words, King Husayn has tied himself to the Syrian regime with regard to every move made in the political process. This is not the way to promote peace.

[Kohen] What is your attitude toward this move?

[Ben-Aharon] We regret this. We will be even sorrier if King Husayn's trip to Moscow results in Jordan and Syria moving closer to the Soviet stance. This is exactly what the Soviets want. They want to reenter the Middle East, dictate conditions, strengthen their friendship with all Arab countries, and thereby undermine the U.S. stance and push us into an impossible corner.

[Kohen] Do you view King Husayn's visit to Moscow as a turning point?

[Ben-Aharon] The visit itself need not be a turning point because King Husayn has visited Moscow in the past. If the visit does become a turning point, this will be very serious.

[Kohen] Are you referring to Jordan receiving MIG-29 planes?

[Ben-Aharon] Any Jordanian shift, be it political or military, in the direction of the USSR can be a very grave matter which will upset all expectations in this region and derail the move toward a political solution. I think this will put the Jordanian Kingdom in an impossible situation, strengthen the PLO at Jordan's expense, and hurt U.S. interests. In addition, I think all aspects of the cooperation we crave and believe should exist between us and Jordan will suffer a setback.

[Kohen] Thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

IDF Intelligence Chief on Egypt-Syria-Iraq Ties

TA221554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, chief of IDF Intelligence, does not foresee an imminent change in the rapprochement between Syria and Iraq on the one hand and Syria and Egypt on the other. Nevertheless, he believes that when a change does take place it will be more significant in terms of Damascus' relations with Cairo than in its relations with Baghdad.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of intelligence made these remarks in a speech at the Yad Tabenkin Seminar in Ramat Ef'al. In his estimation, Syria has been weighing risks as opposed to chances and is not headed for an all-out war with Israel. Encouraging terrorism as a comprehensive activity against Israel, Maj Gen Shahaq said, is part of Syria's strategy because Damascus has realized that terrorism saps Israel's resources.

Clashes in Lebanon; 'Large Offensive' Seen

TA211827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Dozens of Hizballah terrorists at dawn raided a South Lebanese Army [SLA] outpost in the central sector. General Lahd's people displayed good soldiering and repelled the attackers. Five terrorists were found dead on the fences of the outpost. One SLA soldier was wounded. IDF positions in the area spotted a terrorist vehicle trying to provide reinforcements, and fired artillery shells. The vehicle was hit and blew up. UNIFIL officers reported that dozens of shells were fired by an IDF battery at the terrorists as they gathered their wounded and retreated. Intense Israeli Air Force activity was also reported.

In the early afternoon, an SLA armored personnel carrier hit a mine planted on a patrol road in the central sector. One soldier was killed and his comrade was seriously wounded. SLA positions shelled terrorist targets throughout the day. Many casualties were reported in the Jab'a, Kafr Rumman, and Kafr Tibnit villages in the Al-Nabatiyah area: 2 people were killed and 30 wounded, and some 20 houses were damaged. Hizballah's radio station reported from Ba'labakk that today's events are a prologue to a large offensive expected soon. IDF sources noted the good performance shown by the SLA soldiers.

Greek Official Conveys Message to Syria

TA200832 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 87 p 2

[Report from Athens by Jean Kohen]

[Text] Konstandinos Yeoryiou, the secretary general of the Greek Foreign Ministry, left for Syria yesterday to confer with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Defense Minister Mustafa Talas. Yeoryiou will deliver a message from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou explaining the reasons for Greece's decision to take action toward normalizing its relations with Israel.

A Greek Foreign Ministry source has said that Yeoryiou was also instructed to relay a message from Israel to the Syrians. This provides Greece with an opportunity to mediate between Israel and the Arabs. The source added that Greece was doing so at Israel's behest, per a request Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made in a meeting with his Greek counterpart, Karolos Papoulias, during the latter's visit to Israel between 30 November and 3 December.

The most recent official visit to Syria of a Greek official was held only at the end of August, obviating the need for another visit until now. In light of this, and in view of Papoulias's recent visit to Israel, the impression is that both Greece and Israel are seriously contemplating the possibility that Greece will help resolve the conflict between Israel and the Arabs.

Italian President Arrives on 'Private' Visit

TA181649 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Italian President Francesco Cossiga has arrived in Israel, on what is described as a good-neighbor and private pilgrimage visit. President Cossiga is accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the Italian president's plane landed at a military airport in the north and was greeted by Minister Shahal on behalf of the Israeli Government. The guest reviewed an Air Force guard of honor and signed the air base's guest book.

Later, he proceeded to tour the Christian holy sites in Nazareth on the shore of Lake Tiberias. He will spend the night in Jerusalem. Tomorrow he will visit the Old City and Bethlehem. He will also visit the Israel Museum, the Western Wall, the Italian synagogue in the new city of Jerusalem, and will attend a dinner with Israelis of Italian origin.

His political meetings are scheduled for Sunday.

Tours Old Jerusalem 19 Dec

TA191225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Italian President Francesco Cossiga toured the Old City of Jerusalem this morning, expressing the hope that coexistence among the various religions in the city will bring peace nearer. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Cossiga's tour in East Jerusalem passed without a hitch. Police Inspector General David Kraus said that in coordination with the Foreign Ministry the police had considered canceling the visit but later decided to go ahead with it nevertheless. Inspector General Kraus added that this morning's incidents in East Jerusalem were organized through the schools. [passage omitted]

Aid to Territories Planned

TA191927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The Italian foreign minister has said that his country is examining several plans to help the inhabitants of the territories and express solidarity with them. Italy intends to extend financial aid to them, organize training courses, and to establish an Italian cultural center in Gaza, among other things.

Minister Giulio Andreotti and Italian President Francesco Cossiga conferred with a delegation of inhabitants of the territories at the Italian Consulate in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez notes that the Italian foreign minister and president emphasized that they support the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians. Minister Andreotti said that the frustration of the inhabitants of the territories stem from neglect in dealing with the conflict in the Middle East, among other things.

Meets Palestinians Notables

TA200637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The situation in the territories also featured prominently in Italian President Francesco Cossiga's visit. He, too, was forced to change his itinerary due to events in East Jerusalem. Our political affairs editor Gid'on Remez maintains that the guest, and even more so Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, found this an opportune chance to reemphasize Italy's position, as well as that of the EC on the Israeli-Arab conflict:

[Begin recording] [Remez] Although President Cossiga avoided the disturbances in Jerusalem, he could easily smell the smoke, as could the dozens of Italian correspondents who suddenly found something interesting to report about a visit which would otherwise have been simply just another pilgrimage. Minister Giulio Andreotti, the chief spokesman for the Italian delegation, took pains to emphasize that he and Prime Minister Goria pleaded with the president not to cancel the visit. He added that even representatives of Arab countries and the PLO preferred that the visit take place as scheduled so as to reiterate the solution favored by Italy and the EC, namely an international conference.

After a meeting with notables from the territories, which lasted longer than originally planned, Andreotti said: Indeed, I noticed that the desire to find a solution is getting stronger, and on Sunday I will be able to verify this in my political meetings. [passage omitted]

This evening, however, we heard about the feelings of frustration that prevail in the territories. They talked about the nightmare they are going through. Andreotti emphasized that he supports Israel's rights as well, but frequently mentioned his identification with the plight of the Palestinians, a nation whose lands and history were taken away. He said that Italy is considering ways to increase financial aid to the territories and to set up a cultural center in Gaza.

President Cossiga, almost overshadowed by Andreotti, endorsed the above, adding: When we decided to go ahead and hold the visit, despite the difficulties, we thought we would be able to find a political solution and resolve the delicate situation in the territories. [passage omitted] This is thanks to the friendly and open relations we have with the Israelis, said the Italian president.

He is scheduled to meet today with President Herzog, Prime Minister Shamir, and Vice Prime Minister Peres, and he will also lay a wreath at the Yad Vashem memorial to the holocaust. [end recording]

Holds Talks With Herzog

TA200948 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Italian President Francesco Cossiga is highly concerned about the disturbances in the territories, and conveyed his sentiments to President Hayim Herzog at the beginning of the political part of his visit to Israel. In a meeting with President Herzog, the Italian visitor noted that his country supports an international conference as a channel for peace.

Mr Herzog told the Italian president that the events in the territories should be viewed in the correct perspective and people must understand that they are the outcome of the frustration of extremist Palestinian elements who wish to redirect political attention to their cause. Mr Herzog expressed regret over the loss of lives in the territories, but emphasized that Israel will not be able to permit extremists to take over the Arab street.

The Italian visitor is currently the guest of the Knesset, and is scheduled to proceed from there to the Yad Vashem holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yinon Shenkar filed this report.

Meets With Knesset Speaker

TA201217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Italian President Francesco Cossiga has met with Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel, and informed him that Senate Speaker Giovanni Spadolini has accepted Hilel's invitation and will visit Israel soon.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Cossiga was given a ceremonious welcome at the Knesset plaza. He reviewed an honor guard and laid a wreath at the memorial in the plaza.

Comments on Palestinians

LD202125 Rome International Service in Italian 1800 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] President Cossiga's difficult visit to Israel has been transformed into a visit at the center of the dramatic Palestinian problem. After his meetings yesterday with the leaders of the Palestinian community, the Italian president met face to face today with Israeli leaders. We have a line to our correspondent:

[Caporilli] This is Renato Caporilli reporting from Jerusalem. The state of tension in the occupied territories does not seem that it is to be about to diminish. Today again there have been clashes and a few people were injured in Gaza. President Cossiga and Foreign Minister Andreotti had their first political talks today with Israeli President Herzog and in the evening with Prime Minister Shamir. As he had promised, Cossiga spoke with friendship and frankness. To Herzog he expressed Italy's anxiety caused by the violence in the occupied territories and expressed hope that the Israeli Government will do its best to bring the situation back to normal. He also spoke in favor of a peace process. Israel is pursuing this peace process, Herzog said, recalling the agreement with Egypt.

Cossiga, who yesterday defended the opportunity to make this visit despite the recent tension, also received the support of Israeli leaders who described the visit as opportune and who are also said to be very satisfied with the way it is progressing—the Israelis were neither surprised nor scandalized over the meeting which Cossiga and Andreotti had yesterday with Palestinian representatives in occupied territories and which provided an opportunity to express to those people not only italy's political solidarity but also to present practical aid and finance projects in the field of professional training, health services, and service infrastructures. It also provided an opportunity for Andreotti to stress the Italian position on the occupied territories:

[Begin Andreotti recording] Our position, which has been expressed not in the Cafe Aragno [as heard] but in the Security Council, where the matter is discussed and where a vote should be taken on Monday, is this: It is time for the Security Council to come face to face with the real reasons behind this tragedy, that is, the occupied territories, which on one hand sees a people expropriated of its land and even of its history, and, on the other, sees the question of geographical limits of the legitimacy of the state of Israel still being unresolved. Consistently with what it did in the past, the Security Council has a duty to help find a solution, if possible, by promoting an international conference without which it is impossible not to have any illusions that extremism will gain the upper hand on both sides. [end recording]

Confers With Peres, Departs

TA211010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Italian President Francesco Cossiga has ended his visit to Israel with an expression of friendship for the Israeli people and support for its desire to live in security and peace. President Cossiga told Foreign Minister Peres that Italy is willing to assist in the political efforts. He added, however, that the situation in the territories is an expression of profound distress over the hopelessness of the political situation as a result of the stalemate in the peace process, and that political effort must be renewed for the good of all the sides concerned. Peres agreed that we cannot tolerate a stalemate, because this will only strengthen the extremists.

Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that he does not reject Prime Minister Shamir's proposal to hold a special international conference for aiding the refugees, despite the fact that his briefing on the proposal was incomplete.

Telephone Connections With Lebanon Restored

NC211305 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] According to a responsible source in the Jordanian Ministry of Telecommunications, Jordan has restored telephone communications with Lebanon after an interruption of 10 years.

AL-RA'Y on King Husayn's Visit to Moscow

JN212247 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Dec 87 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Husayn in Moscow"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn will begin an official visit to the Soviet Union today. The visit acquires its importance and distinction from a host of Arab and international factors. The most important of these is that King Husayn is visiting Moscow today in his capacity as chairman of the latest Arab summit—the summit of reconciliation and accord—and a chairman of the most successful Arab summit judged by the circumstances in which it was convened and the great results it achieved. Therefore, his majesty will be an Arab voice, in addition to being a Jordanian voice. He will carry with him what can be called a unified Arab stand on the most important issues and challenges facing us as a homeland and threatening us as a nation.

The Israeli occupation rejects peace, insists on aggression and expansion, and disregards the international comunity with all its values, principles, and resolutions. It is now escalating anew its systematic terrorism and brutality, which not only enjoy support from the Israeli military and political establishments, but external support as well. This support constitutes a direct condemnation for those extending it and entails a genuine participation in the occupation's programs, policies, racism, and disregard of truth and justice.

On the eastern gate of the Arab homeland, the Iranian regime insists on its war and rejects any effort, disposition, or international unanimity toward halting it and ending the causes which led to it.

Apart from these two issues and challenges, there is a great deal in common between Jordan and the friendly Soviet Union with regard to important and numerous points of agreement. The Arab nation and the Soviet people also agree on the need for regaining rights and for sincere efforts to end the tragedies of our world and to establish security, justice, and peace.

The Soviet Union's support for our just causes is great and appreciated. This support remains for us in Jordan—king, government, and people—the framwork within which we and our Soviet friends managed to establish deeprooted relations of trust and mutual respect and the desire to work together for the sake of truth, justice, and peace. These relations are based on independence. They confront any attempts for hegemony, as the case has been with others. [sentence as published]

We are confident that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union and talks with leader Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership will have a profound and positive effect on relations between the two friendly countries and on Arab relations as a whole. Our confidence stems from King Husayn's pan-Arab position, which is appreciated and admired by the Soviets, and in his capacity as chairman of the summit of reconciliation and accord.

This is especially true since all stands and policies concerning the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, the Israeli practices which are supported by international parties that are not concerned about justice or stability, and the Iraqi-Iran war, which needs a responsible stand by all parties, have become clear.

Reportage on King Husayn's Visit to the USSR

For media coverage of the visit to the Soviet Union by King Husayn, including reports on his talks and his speech at the banquet hosted by Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, see the 21 December issue of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Israelis Shell Al-Nabatiyah; 30 Casualties

NC211534 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Approximately 30 citizens were killed or wounded today in the fiercest Israeli shelling this year of the city of Al-Nabatiyah and some villages in Al-Nabatiyah District. The shelling lasted about 10 hours. In addition to the peaceful villages, a student transport bus, two first aid cars, and a convent were hit. Military aircraft, helicopters, heavy artillery, mortar, and various types of machineguns were used in this terrorist action, which comes in the wake of the success of some resistance groups in raiding positions in Tallat (Al-Tuhrah) and Tallat al-Suwayda' and purging them of the hostile elements there.

Birri Appeals to UN on 'Israeli Onslaught'

NC221209 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Minister of Justice Nabih Birri has sent a cable to the UN secretary general describing the new Israeli onslaught on southern Lebanon and the massacre that the occupation authorities committed by shelling Al-Nabatiyah yesterday. Minister Birri urged the UN secretary general to intercede immediately, to condemn such actions, and to bring pressure to bear on Israel to make it implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425. Minister Birri reiterated the Lebanese people's legitimate right to continue their resistance to occupation.

Israeli Helicopters Fly Over Central Sector

NC220811 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The liberated areas adjacent to the occupied border strip are currently the scene of growing tension. This is a result of the continuing Israeli helicopter overflights that have been going on in the central sector since last night.

Islamic Resistance Issues Statement on Attacks

NC211757 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement this afternoon saying that its men raided enemy positions in Al-Suwayda', Tuhrah, and Al-Dabshah at dawn today, occupying the Al-Suwayda' position after blowing up all its bunkers and fortifications and killing all its elements.

The statement addes that at the time the resistance groups were engaged in a fierce battle with the Tuhrah and Al-Dabshah garrisons, the resistance artillery was pounding the enemy's positions in 'Ali al-Tahir, Qal'at Arnun-Shaqif, Sujud, Bi'r Kallab, Al-Zaffatah, the Radar area, Al-Rihan barracks, and Al-Jarmaq triangle, scoring direct hits and inflicting personal and property damage.

The statement notes that as a result of these operations, the Islamic Resistance men killed and wounded 25 Israelis and Lahd men and blew up two armored personnel carriers and a tank.

It states that during the fierce battle, the resistance men detonated an explosive charge under an Israeli enemy armored personnel carrier on the Al-Dabshah-Tuhrah road, destroying it and killing all its eight crew members.

The statement goes on to say: The enemy became hysterical. Israeli warplanes conducted mock air raids over the area of the operations starting at 0445 this morning, dropping dozens of flares. Helicopters also participated in the battle. The Israeli artillery shelled Al-Nabatiyah city and the villages of Al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqah, Mayfadun, Habbush, Kafr Rumman, 'Arab Salim, Jarju', Humin al-Fawqa, 'Ayn bu Siwar, and Jba'.

According to the statement, the Islamic Resistance retaliated by shelling the cities of Marj 'Uyun and Jazzin, as well as the Al-Khalisah [Qiryat Shemona] settlement in the occupied territory.

Fadlallah Lectures on Islamic Resistance

NC212014 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] In a lecture delivered at the Imam al-Hasan Mosque, Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah spiritual guide] said that the Islamic Resistance is an entity of deeds, not emotions. It carefully confronts actions and plans its reactions; it does not just react emotionally to the plans of others.

After being asked why they use the name Islamic Resistance, he said: We named it to create an intellectual shock, knowing the nature of Lebanon, the nature of the problems that stand in the way of Lebanon's becoming an Islamic state, the nature of the region, the nature of the challenges, and the nature of the red lines that have been drawn in the arena. However, he added, we wanted to bring Islam back into the realm of struggle and not let it remain on the sidelines of Muslim life, considered only in informal gatherings, in the offices of Shari'ah courts, and in protocol situations which have nothing to do with the struggle.

Fadlallah said: We do not want Islam to rule, but Islam can open the way for the Muslims in Lebanon to demand their rights on the basis of Lebanese law and on any other basis. However, it does not permit Muslims to define the rights of the people and rule their lives. This matter does not relate to Lebanon's particular situation, but to the decision which has emanated from the quarters of the infidels. [sentence as heard]

Calling for a dialogue with the Christians, he said: There is no Christian state, but a state for Christians. Our struggle with them is like our struggle with other ideological parties.

With regard to Israel, he called for a comprehensive revolution to put an end to it. He stressed his rejection of any call for peace at the expense of the Palestinian issue. He said: We support war when war is the only solution.

Syrians Rotate Battalions in Beirut, North

NC201745 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] According to security information, a wide-scale rotation of the Syrian occupation forces in Lebanon is now taking place as a result of the confusion that has been caused in their ranks by the escalating resistance attacks against Syrian positions and patrols in some areas.

Another cause for the rotation is the collaboration that has emerged between members of the Syrian occupation forces and the inhabitants of these areas, which has led to widespread bribes and corruption. According to the same information, this collaboration has resulted in several desertions and violations in the ranks of the Syrian forces.

The rotation operation includes bringing the 68th Brigade under the command of Syrian Druze Brigadier General 'Adil Zahr al-Din to Al-Matn in place of the 46th Special Forces Battalion, which will be transferred to West Beirut; transferring the 14th Battalion units, which are deployed in West Beirut, to the Lebanese-Syrian border in western Al-Biqa'; bringing two Air Defense Battalions to west of Shtawrah; stationing the 35th Battalion of the Syrian Special Forces in the vicinity of Zahlah up to West Beirut; and transferring the 44th Special Forces Battalion from Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah to West Beirut.

Syrians Install Radar Posts in Ba'labakk Area

NC211600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Syrian forces have set up radar installations in the Al-Tayyibah area near Ba'labakk in the past 2 days. The Syrian forces have also evacuated some of their positions on the Zahlah-Duhur al-Shuwayr road and removed a roadblock on the Ba'labakk road.

9 February Claims Attack on Syrian Position

NC221037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for firing at a Syrian position in the American School in Al-Zahriyah district of Tripoli yesterday afternoon. The organization said that a Syrian soldier was killed in the operation.

Amal Plan for Southern Suburb To Begin 'Soon'

NC190833 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Citing Amal Movement sources, the AL-SAFIR newspaper reports that a security plan is being drawn up to involve the southern suburb. The sources added that the plan, which is being prepared under the direct supervision of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, will be implemented very soon and that regular forces will assume the security task there. The sources pointed out that the southern suburb has become a hotbed of gangs who should be stamped out, as their presence portends great danger. It should be recalled that Minister Nabih Birri said yesterday that the southern suburb has become a refuge for gangs and kidnappers.

Amal, Palestinians Clash on Shatila Lines

NC211506 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Clashes involving the use of rockets and machineguns have been raging between Amal personnel and the Palestinians on the Shatila camp combat lines since 1545 today.

In another development, tension reigns in the area of the Al-Sahil Hospital in the aftermath of fighting among Amal Movement gunmen at noon today.

2 Amal Security Members Killed by Hizballah

NC221241 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A state of alert prevails in Al-Murayjah, 'Aynal-Sikkah, and Burj al-Barajinah between Hizballah and the Amal Movement after two members of Amal's security apparatus were killed. A security source in the southern suburb has told our correspondent that Hizballah gunmen ambushed an Amal Movement security patrol on the airport road yesterday afternoon. The gunmen opened fire at the patrol, wounding [as heard] two members of the patrol.

Iddih Gives Terms for Presidential Nomination

JN181959 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] In a statement to our radio with regard to nominations for the Lebanese presidential elections, [Lebanese House of Deputies member] Raymond Iddih said: It is ridiculous to speak now of nominations for the Lebanese presidency. Constitutionally, elections cannot be held before 23 July 1988 unless the Constitution is amended. This happened in 1976 when President Sarkis was nominated. I have already stated that I have certain conditions before nominating myself; namely, the Israeli Army's withdrawal from all Lebanese territory pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 425, 426, and 509. I am still adhering to my position.

Lebanese Deputy Raymond Iddih added: When I decide to nominate myself for the presidency, I will not go to Lebanon. The House of Deputies, which elects the president, can elect me while I am outside the country, although I will be losing my own vote in the process. If the House of Deputies elects me, I will visit the five UN Security Council permanent members, beginning with France. I will also visit Italy because it participated in the multinational force in 1982. This will give me the opportunity to visit the pope. Thereafter, I will visit Moscow and Beijing. I will ask all of these countries to bring pressure to bear on Israel to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw from Lebanon.

Then I will go to Washington. Through President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, Washington announced that the United States supports Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty within its international borders. Yet, the United States did not ask Israel to withdraw its Army which occupies southern Lebanon, contravening international law and the 1949 Lebanese-Israeli armistice agreement and violating UN Security Council resolutions.

Raymond Iddih continued: When the Israeli Army withdraws, I will proceed to Lebanon to take the oath of office and assume the responsibility of the presidency; otherwise, I will return to Paris and tender my resignation. Thus, the House of Deputies will have a sufficient constitutional period to elect another president.

Raymond Iddih added: If I assume power, I will begin by unifying the Lebanese Army so that it will replace the Syrian Army. I cannot ask the Syrian Army to withdraw because it entered Lebanon on 1 June 1976 at the request of the Phalangist Party. On that day, I appealed to the Lebanese people to protest against the Syrian Army's entry and the occupation of Lebanon. Then the Lebanese state agreed to the Syrian Army's entry within the Arab Deterrent Forces which the Riyadh and Cairo Arab summits decided to send to Lebanon. Since the entry of the Syrian Army, I have distinguished between the Israeli occupation and the presence of the Syrian Army, which the Lebanese authorities approved.

Concluding his statement, Iddih asserted: As I have said, when the Lebanese Army is able to protect the country's security, I will ask the Syrian Army to leave Lebanon with its honor intact.

Describes Policy Positions

PM220907 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Dec 87 p 11

[Interview with National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih by Ilyas Harfush; date and place not given]

[Text] [Harfush] Is it true that you, leader Raymond Iddih, have a new position concerning the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon which differs from previous positions?

[Iddih] Those who consider that I have a new position on the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon have a poor memory. All I have done recently is to repeat statements dating back to 1978 concerning the distinction between Israel, which is occupying southern Lebanon, and Syria, whose army has been in Lebanon since 1 June 1976, in accordance with the request made by the Phalangist Party. At that time, the Syrians' entry was not made with the approval of the legitimate authorities. But, later on, following the two Arab summits held in Riyadh and Cairo in October 1976, the Syrian Army in Lebanon was transformed into an Arab deterrent force, and now I am speaking about the "Syrian presence."

[Harfush] Are you a candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Lebanon? And what are your preconditions for taking up this post if you are elected?

[Iddih] In Lebanon, the president is elected by the Chamber of Deputies, not by the people. If the Chamber of Deputies decides that my election as president would benefit Lebanon, I will be ready. However, I have one precondition, which is the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from southern Lebanon.

In 1982 I announced that I had three preconditions: the withdrawal of Israeli forces, the withdrawal of Syrian forces, and the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters. Following the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' recent abrogation of the Cairo agreement, the third precondition no longer applies. As for the second precondition regarding the Syrians, there are large areas in Lebanon under Syrian control—in the north, Al-Biqa', some mountain areas, the south, and West Beirut. We cannot suddenly withdraw the Syrian Army from these areas, because if this were to happen the minorities, both Christian and Muslim, would be at the mercy of the militias. The alternative to the Syrian Army should be the reunification of the Lebanese Army so that it can take its place. My only precondition at the moment is the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from southern Lebanon, and I will not back down from that precondition.

[Harfush] Do you have a plan to achieve this withdrawal which you have made a precondition for your assuming the presidency?

[Iddih] If I were elected president while I am in Paris, I would only go back to Lebanon after visiting the big powers concerned with the Lebanese crisis, the UN Security Council permanent members, Italy and the Vatican, and then the United States. The aim of this tour would be to urge these states, in particular the United States, to guarantee Israel's withdrawal to Lebanon's international borders. I would urge the United States to get the Israeli Army to withdraw from Lebanon, thereby fulfilling UN Resolutions 425 (1978) and 509 (1982), which it approved.

I believe that if the United States wants to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, it can do so. This year Israel has received $3 billion from the U.S. Treasury—half in grants and the other half in military aid. So it can force Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon, thus honoring its long-standing steadfast pledge to uphold Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence within internationally recognized borders.

[Harfush] What about Israel's claims concerning the need to obtain "security guarantees" in the south before it withdraws?

[Iddih] The recent fedayeen operation from Al-Biqa' proved that Israel's presence on Lebanese territory does not protect the security of Galilee. All the security guarantees Israel has been talking about are imaginary guarantees, because it is easy to fire missiles from Al-Biqa' or Syria against Israel without it being able to prevent them. Furthermore, it is difficult to prevent microlight planes from repeating a similar operation. Besides, the one who needs guarantees in the event the Israeli Army withdraws from Lebanon is Lebanon, not Israel. The function of the UN forces stationed in Lebanon—according to the UN Security Council resolutions—is to deploy along international borders and to be the only guarantee for these borders.

[Harfush] Prominent Lebanese personalities, such as Sa'ib Salam, Taqiy al-Din al-Sulh, Salim al-Huss, Sulayman Franjiyah, and others, have recently visited the French capital. Did you meet with them? And was the battle for the presidency discussed?

[Iddih] None of those who came to Paris broached the subject with me, nor did I discuss it with them.

[Harfush] The Lebanese Forces have a military presence in a wide section of East Beirut and the mountain region. They are opposed to you becoming president. One of their leaders, Karim Paqraduni, describes you as an orientalist. How will you deal with the Forces if you become president?

[Iddih] The position of the Forces and the Phalangists does not concern me. The leaders of the Forces do not elect the president in Lebanon. Furthermore, the head of the Phalangists and Paqraduni, who are now talking about the Syrians, are the ones who asked for the Syrian Army to enter Lebanon in 1976.

[Harfush] One last question. If you fail to secure your sole precondition—the withdrawal of the Israeli Army, through U.S. pressure—what is the alternative?

[Iddih] Israel's withdrawal is my only precondition, and I will not back down from it. If I do not succeed in getting that, I will resign, and there will be ample time for the Chamber of Deputies to elect a president other than myself.

Birri Supports Presidency for Muslims, Shi'ites

NC202111 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri launched an escalatory campaign in Al-Hirmil and Ba'labakk today before leaving for Damascus for talks with senior Syrian officials.

Birri emphasized that a solution to the Lebanese issue cannot be achieved without Syria; it must instead be achieved with it. He assailed the 1943 formula by saying: A homeland was not built in 1943. Lebanon was established at that time to be a farm for Maronite politics. He reiterated that he is trying to bring about a reconciliation before the presidential elections.

Birri said that Maronite politics is a religion that is permeating the Shi'ites, the Sunnis, and the Druze alike. He added: The Muslims now constitute 70 percent of the Lebanese population, and if they wanted to use present figures as a criterion for the presidency, then the presidency should go to the Muslims and the Shi'ites.

Birri said he believes that the real partition took place in 1943 when they made the Shi'ites a fourth class community. He also said he regards the rule in Lebanon as Maronite, not Lebanese. Describing the plot as very big, he indicated that we are on the threshold of deadlines and that the plot is designed to keep the Shi'ites a third and fourth class community and to prevent if from making decisions.

Sa'dah Reacts to Birri Call

NC211659 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Phalangist Party leader George Sa'dah has expressed regret over the fact that some leaders have become hostage to their own positions and insist on keeping abreast of the waves of escalation and one-upmanship. During a joint meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council, Sa'dah declared that the idea of nominating Muslims to the presidency is not new. He said that those who advocate this know that the reconsideration of equations is not an easy matter.

Sa'dah renewed his call for rising to the level of national responsibility and dealing with existing issues and needs with practicality and logic, while staying away from competition. He noted that attaining transient objectives through this kind of one-upmanship causes great damage to the supreme national interests.

PSP Central Committee Meets, Issues Statement

NC191804 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The PSP Central Committee held a meeting today under the chairmanship of party leader Walid Junblatt. The conferees discussed the political report submitted by

the party leader, reports on the Political Bureau's activities, and the party's budget. After the meeting, the committee issued the following statement:

1. The Central Committee commended the general basic principles outlined in the political report, submitted a package of proposals, and issued a general political statement.

2. The Central Committee paid tribute to the overwhelming and magnificent national uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The committee views this uprising as a qualitative shift in the course of the Palestinian people's national struggle and [word indistinct] a fresh pan-Arab uprising that enjoys the support of all nationalist Arabs and opens new horizons for revolutionary action. This uprising should put an end to the discord which is destroying and exhausting national efforts, so that Arab rifles may be unified. The Central Committee salutes the steadfast Palestinian people, assuring them of its solidarity and support.

The Palestinian people are today asserting their national identity by confronting all attempts by imperialism and Zionism to eradicate this identity. The Palestinian people's striving represents a determined struggle that far exceeds all Palestinian and Arab political slogans, programs, and formulas. Let the West Bank uprising be an opportunity for all patriotic forces to aspire to a pan-Arab alert in order to change the balance of power in favor of our just struggle.

3. The Central Committee has expressed astonishment at the isolationist activities against the Syrian Arab forces in some parts of the north and in the eastern areas and at the artificial uproar about security events in the north. Today, we would have liked to have seen the nationalist Christians join us in our campaign for solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people's uprising, instead of staging a strike in support of suspicious forces in certain parts of the north. We also would have liked to have seen this move being directed against Phalangist rule and against domination by the forces and authorities responsible for the Lebanese crisis, especially the social problems, and its impact on all sects of the Lebanese people.

4. The Central Committee stressed the importance of dealing with the issue of the presidential elections from a unified nationalist standpoint and with a single national political plan. The Central Comittee also stressed the need for a continuous effort to unite the nationalist forces and consolidate the role of the Unification and Liberation Front in this respect. The Central Committee believes that nationalist Christians are a basic constituent of the national equation. They must receive attention and there must be interaction with them through nationalist working plans.

5. The Central Committee assessed the negative impact on the national work that resulted from the isolationist organs' success in assassinating Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The Central Committee believes that the response to this crime should be a firmer national stand and that the isolationist forces' plot, which was behind this crime, must not be allowed to succeed.

6. The Central Committee discussed the party's general report and ratified its recommendations.

7. The Central Committee approved the general budget.

Al-Huss Returns From Algeria Visit 21 Dec

NC211610 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut at 1600 today after a 2-day visit to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Birri Returns From Damascus Visit 21 Dec

NC211213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] We have learned that Minister Nabih Birri has returned from Damascus after holding talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Minister Birri is expected to meet with Bishop Khalil Abu Nadir, head of the Beirut's Maronite bishops, at 1400 today.

Oman's Al-'Alawi Makes Statement, Leaves

JN211617 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of their visit. The Omani minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Ustuwani, director of protocol at the ministry; Ahmad 'Isa, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the ministry; and 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, director of the Information Department at the ministry.

In a predeparture statement to a SANA correspondent, the Omani minister expressed his complete satisfaction with the results of his talks in Damascus. He said he was honored by his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who briefed him on the current Arab situation. He added that he would convey President al-Asad's new ideas about the issue of joint Arab action to Omani Sultan Qabus. He also noted that Al-Asad's remarks are identical with Oman's views on the current Arab sitatuion.

The Omani minister added that ambassadors will be exchanged soon. He said this will be a useful step toward increasing contacts, promoting relations between the two fraternal peoples in Syria and Oman, and supporting joint Arab action.

Press Statement Issued

JN211703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Press statement on the visit to Damascus by Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, issued on 21 December]

[Text] Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, paid a visit to Syria at the head of a high-level delegation from 19-21 December 1987. He did so to promote fraternal ties, to develop and support cooperation between the two fraternal Arab countries, Syria and the Sultanate of Oman, to serve joint Arab interests, and to reinforce the Arab march of solidarity in the face of the dangers and challenges threatening the Arab nation. He visited at the invitation of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received the guest minister and Haytham ibn Tariq Al Sa'id, the Oman Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, in the presence of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The guest minister conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad the greetings of Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and the fraternal Omani people. The president asked the guest minister to convey his greetings to Sultan Qabus and the fraternal Omani people.

The Omani and the Syrian sides held talks at the Foreign Ministry on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. The two sides also agreed to exchange diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level. Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi, the minister of foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to visit Muscat. The invitation was accepted and a date for the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

'Contradictions' in Amman Resolutions Noted

PM221157 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
12 Dec 87 p 1

['Amid Khuli article: "Great Leaders for Small States and Small Leaders for Great States]

[Text] While the entire Arab nation was, with great admiration, following the complicated political battle in which leader Al-Asad engaged and secured an international resolution—which was almost unanimous except for those who are against the peoples' will; namely, the United States and its creature, Israel—recognizing the peoples' right to self-determination and their legitimate struggle for independence and freedom, I was delighted to see the major victory that Al-Asad's Syria achieved at the United Nations for the Arab masses and for all peoples struggling for independence and freedom.

What inspires optimism is that major issues such as these, which constitute elements of struggle and sharp turns in the course of human struggle, can be dealt with successfully when historic leadership, skillful means of struggle, and pan-Arab sincerity are available for it. Hafiz al-Asad has such qualities and with them he has engaged not only in the Arab nation's battle but in the battle of the entire Third World against our nation's two main enemies; namely, the United States and Israel, which were the only two parties that opposed the resolution to prevent our nation from exercising its legitimate right in armed struggle to liberate its territories and achieve pan-Arab objectives.

We all remember the fierce and bloody way in which both the United States and Israel have run the battle against Syria, whereby they tried to taint the entire Arab struggle with terrorism to distort the image of our masses' struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

In its political form, the major victory achieved by Hafiz al-Asad must be a distinguished point in the course of Arab struggle from which the nation can launch serious moves toward our pan-Arab objectives. This goes to show above all that both the United States and Israel lack many things and cannot divert the struggle course or eliminate its causes, especially when such causes are handled by a unique leader and that 99 percent of the cards only exist within the delusions of capitulationist and apostate Arabs to justify their kowtowing to the

United States and its ally, as well as their infatuation with the U.S.-Israeli Camp David approach. Such justifications have objectively collapsed; they reflected their low ambitions.

Some Amman resolutions must be re-read in light of the UN resolution adopted in response to leader Al-Asad's initiative, which to a large extent responds to our struggle inspirations.

The international resolution repudiates U.S. and Israeli pretexts about our nation's struggle and renders it internationally legitimized and, indeed, requests peoples to support it—something which realistically and logically means a condemnation of both Israel and the United States, whereas the Amman resolutions reflected contradictions that inspired both numbness and amazement. The entire world is achieving victory for us while we are letting ourselves down by throwing ourselves into the arms of our enemies, who condemn our struggle, independence, and freedom; this happened through a summit resolution!

Hafiz al-Asad has engaged in a battle for this historic international resolution across the world arenas, beginning with Damascus, Greece, Eastern and Western Europe, and the United Nations, to secure a major resolution such as this, supporting our struggle against Israel, the United States, and their aggressive presence in Palestine and the Gulf. Whereas others are turning to the United States and Israel—also through a summit resolution!

Despite all this pan-Arab pain, this major victory will continue to belong to the entire Arab nation, which must invest and exploit it in a good way to develop ways of handling political battles and improve stands adopted by the world toward our causes, so that new and important turning points are achieved within the international community.

Once again this great leader, Hafiz al-Asad, has proved there can be great leaders for small states and small leaders for great states.

Camp David Accords Keeping Egypt 'Shackled'

JN212308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Much has been said about intra-Arab reconciliations and about positive developments in relations among Arab countries since the termination of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman. Syria's name is being involved in any talk about the unity of Arab ranks, joint Arab action, and Arab solidarity.

When speaking about reconciliations, matters reached the extent of propagating reports about a possible visit by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Damascus and about a scheduled visit by Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's office, to Damascus to prepare for Mubarak's visit. Reports even mention the possibility of holding an Arab minisummit to be attended by those Arab countries whose names are mentioned in talk about the new developments in intra-Arab relations

Some who are disseminating such reports are prompted by their own wishes and hopes. Others exaggerate when they speak about such issues. They do so not out of their concern to improve Arab relations and the Arab stand in international equations and operations paving the way for convening an international conference. Rather, they do so because they seek objectives other than those championed by the Arabs. Their objective is to abort any real and positive efforts to clear Arab atmospheres and the attempts to find bases for tackling the differences which now exist among Arab countries.

The Amman summit conference convened under exceptional and complicated circumstances. There is no need to explain here that this conference has greatly contributed to enhancing efforts which were already under way to improve Arab relations and tackle the differences among some Arab countries. However, it would be wrong to magnify the positive results of the summit and its positive impact on the atmosphere of Arab relations and mediation efforts among Arab countries. Syria had actively helped to eliminate the obstacles hampering the convocation of the Amman summit.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad made huge efforts to make the Amman summit a success and to allow it to attain the best possible results in circumstances under which the summit convened. This is so because Syria's concept of Arab relations is based on a principled pan-Arab premise, that of viewing Arab unity as being the fate to which the Arab masses aspire, the most trenchant weapon the Arab nation can brandish in the face of its enemies, and as the best solution to the problems Arab countries experience. When unity is impossible or postponed for reasons that have nothing to do with Syria, the least the Arabs can do is to agree on the need to defend the pan-Arab fate against the threats resulting from the Zionist scheme to occupy large and vital parts of the homeland under the excuse of establishing Greater Israel.

Syria has extended a clean and honest hand and continues to extend such a hand to all those who wish to wage a pan-Arab struggle against the Arab nation's enemy. Syria's only condition is that the agreement to wage the pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy and its allies should be waged in all the arenas in which this difficult, complicated, and protracted battle is taking place. If one wants to be fair, one cannot but admit that Syria's relations with the other Arab parties have been negatively or positively affected to the extent of this or that party's joining in the pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy or to the extent of this or that party's distancing itself from this battle.

Let us take our relations with Egypt as an example of our statements. Syria, having waged the October war of liberation with Egypt, is serious about its relations with Egypt. It is well aware of Egypt's importance on the pan-Arab level, of its vanguard role with respect to its nation, and of the Egyptian masses' national sentiments which are a source of pride. No one can carry out one-upmanship with Syria, which has established with Egypt the first real Arab unity in contemporary history. No one can be more concerned than Syria about safeguarding Egypt and its relations with Egypt. However, Egypt is one thing and the Camp David accords are another. Egypt can never be the Egypt of the Arabs and the vanguard Arab country if it continues to be shackled by the Camp David accords and its national decision-making is burdened by its commitments to Israel and the United States.

It is true that President Husni Mubarak is not Anwar al-Sadat. It is also true that Anwar al-Sadat is responsible for making Egypt deviate from the national and pan-Arab course and the one who signed the Camp David accords and not Husni Mubarak. However, this does not exonerate Husni Mubarak from the responsibility of keeping Egypt shackled with the restrictions and commitments imposed by the Camp David accords. No matter how positive the intentions and statements made by Egyptian officials toward Arabs and on Egypt's Arab commitments, the provisions of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Israel will remain binding provisions for Egypt on an international level and cannot be erased by statements to the press, on the radios, or before the People's Assembly.

Historic decisions need historic leaders who, beside harboring good intentions and having patriotic sentiments, must also have the courage to make fateful decisions at the appropriate time. President Husni Mubarak has a great opportunity to return Egypt to its natural position among Arab ranks and have it resume its leading natural role in the pan-Arab battle against Zionist designs and imperialist hegemony. Even objective facts which go beyond the issue of figures and statistics compel one to make historic decisions under pan-Arab circumstances which dictate that such a decision be made.

Let us remember the balance of power which existed when late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir announced the nationalization of the Suez Canal and how this decision released huge Arab potentialities from the ocean to the Gulf which reversed the balance of power in favor of the Arab national liberation movement.

Syria has previously stated and now reiterates that it is the most concerned that Egypt resume its natural place among its Arab nation, free and unshackled by provisions which restrict its freedom of movement and make its commitments to the Zionist enemy more binding than its commitments to the Arab League and the Arab countries. We say yes to Egypt and no to Camp David.

Afghanistan

Captured Frenchman Visited by Embassy Charge

LD221637 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A Ministry of Foreign Affairs source has told BAKHTAR that following a request from the French Embassy in Kabul, Embassy Charge d'affaires (Christian Lambert) was allowed to visit French citizen (Alan Jean Guillo) today. (Guillo), who some time ago entered Afghanistan illegally with the help of an extremist group of counterrevolutionaries, was captured by our country's security forces.

Mujahidin Down 2 Helicopters Near Khowst

BK221606 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say a Soviet-Kabul military convoy which was trying to advance from Gardez toward Khowst was besieged by the mujahidin last week. Mujahidin seized a rocket and land mines from the convoy. Reports also say mujahidin also shot down two helicopters which were providing security to Soviet-Kabul forces around Khowst.

Soviet, Government Forces Incur Heavy Losses

BK220639 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports, the Soviet-Kabul forces had to incur heavy loss of life in Afghanistan this year as well. According to an estimate, nearly 38,000 soldiers have either been killed or injured after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979. The Soviet-Kabul forces had also to face heavy loss of military equipment including aircraft. Correspondents say that about 120,000 Soviet soldiers are stationed in Afghanistan and nearly 30,000 soldiers are in the Soviet Union along the border with Afghanistan.

Najibullah Issues Response to Congratulations

LD212008 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has issued the following response to the compatriots' congratulations on his election as president:

Dear compatriots, on my election to the high office of president of Afghanistan I have received congratulations from workers' collectives, departments, party committees, social organizations, Armed Forces units, individuals, representatives of tribes and clans, workers, peasants, intellectuals, clergy, state and social personalities of the country, and leaders of friendly countries.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you. I view your good wishes as support for the Afghan leadership's efforts to secure peace and calm for our people and as support for the national reconciliation policy. In accordance with their ancestors' traditions and Islamic shari'ah the representatives of the noble Afghan people convened the Grand Assembly, which ratified the Constitution. With the endorsement of our Constitution we have reached a stage that reflects the people's hopes. The office of president is not only a great honor but also a great responsibility. People place much hope in the president. It is a noble and patriotic duty for me, as a son of our dear country, to live up to this hope and to serve the people.

May God give me physical and moral strength to serve indeed the Afghan fatherland in the high office of president.

Keshtmand, Kawiani Visit Takhar Province

LD211848 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, accompanied by Mahbullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Committee; Najmuddin Kawiani, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, minister of interior; Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban, minister of civil aviation; Muhammad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation and water resources; and Ghulam Faruq Kobakiwal, minister of agriculture and land reform, arrived yesterday morning in Taloqan city. They were welcomed on arrival by the leadership of Takhar Province and a number of elders and representatives of the local people.

After Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and his accompanying delegation visited various parts of the Gen and Press Spinzar factory in Taloqan city, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke with officials about the purchase and cultivation of cotton. Then he toured the teacher training establishment of Takhar Province during their examination and took part in a session of the leadership of that province. Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and his accompanying delegation took part in a fathering of elders of Takhar Province which was held in the municipal hall of Taloqan city and spoke to them in a climate of sincerity. Gifts, part of the Soviet Union's grants-in-aid, were distributed to the deserving people.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and his accompanying delegation visited the women's council of residence and families of the martyrs on the path of revolution in Taloqan city. A number of gifts were presented to them.

The BIA reports that the prime minister and his accompanying delegation left for the Khvajeh Ghar District, Takhar Province, and were welcomed by officials, elders, and representatives of the local people. Then, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand visited the various parts of Kukcha farm and viewed the process of cotton harvesting, about which officials gave information.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand then took part in a joint session of the leadership of Khvajeh Ghar and Kukcha project. After hearing reports on the work by the ministers of irrigation and agriculture and land reform and a number of officials of the projects, he drew their attention to the need to improve the work of the Kukcha project, which is one of the large economic projects of the country and one of the outstanding example of Afghan-Soviet cooperation.

Briefs

Georgia SSR Science Delegation

On the basis of direct cooperation between Kapisa Province and Soviet Georgia, a delegation from the Georgian Ministry of Science and technology arrived today in Kabul. According to another report, this delegation met this afternoon with the deputy minister of light industry and foodstuff in his office. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87 LD]

129 Released From Prison

In accordance with the presidential decree, 129 inmates were released today from the Pol-e Charkhi prison and Nimruz prison. The release of inmates continues. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Dec 87 LD]

Bangladesh

Reportage on Strike Called by Opposition

48-Hour Strike Begins

BK220314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, the three opposition alliances and other political parties have given a call for a dawn-to-dusk hartal [strike] for 2 days beginning today. They are demanding the resignation of the present government. The two opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, have ruled out any dialogue with President Ershad and also participation in the mid-term poll under the present government. They demanded a mid-term election under an interim government.

Strike Takes Effect in Dhaka

BK220644 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 22 (AFP)—Many businesses were closed and the streets virtually empty in Dhaka Tuesday as a fresh strike called by the opposition took effect.

The two-day nationwide strike was preceded Monday by a series of explosions here and in other parts of the country, apparently caused by home-made bombs, police said. Blasts were also heard in parts of Dhaka early Tuesday.

Armed police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles troops patrolled the streets of the capital and guarded state-owned buses which plied selected routes and along with the occasional cycle-rickshaw appeared to be the only traffic.

Major shopping centers and many schools were closed, and activities at banks and government offices were less than normal, witnesses said.

The major opposition groups have called for a dawn-to-dusk work stoppage throughout the country on Tuesday and Wednesday. Opposition sources said the strike had been well followed outside the capital.

The strike was called in defiance of a government ban imposed when President Hussain Mohammad Ershad proclaimed a 120-day state of emergency November 27 after a campaign of anti-government strikes and protests.

Mr. Ershad has also dissolved Parliament with pledges for new elections before March, but the opposition has rejected his offers for dialogue, saying the president should step down first and name a caretaker government.

Police reported several bomb blasts early Tuesday in the volatile Kataban sector near Dhaka University, and at the eastern bus terminal at Saidabad. They said the blasts were "mainly to terrorise" people, but did not give details.

Hospital sources said two people were admitted for treatment Monday after two bomb blasts at the government secretariat here, but this could not be confirmed officially.

At least seven explosions were heard Monday, unofficial reports said.

Residents said more blasts were heard overnight in various parts of Dhaka.

Dhaka police said they had recovered 27 home-made bombs from Motijheel and Mohammadpur Districts and arrested two people in connection with the blasts.

In the southwestern city of Khulna, at least two people were killed in one of several blasts in the city Monday. Police suspected the two died while making bombs at an abandoned house, press reports here said.

'Series of Bomb Blasts' Noted

BK220859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, a series of bomb blasts shook the capital Dhaka today as anti-government general strike by the 21 opposition parties started this morning. The

parties have called dawn-to-dusk national strike today and tomorrow in their latest bid to force the resignation of President Ershad. Police said no one was hurt in the blasts.

The strike has brought life in Dhaka and other main cities to a virtual halt.

Bombs Discovered in Dhaka; 2 Killed in Khulna

BK220150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Police in two separate raids recovered 25 live bombs from north Shahjahanpur and Mohammadpur in Dhaka last night. A police press release says two persons have been arrested in this connection.

In Khulna, two persons were killed in bomb explosion in Station Road on Sunday [20 December] night.

Awami League Decides To Continue Efforts

BK210157 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The leader of the seven-party alliance and the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chairman, Begum Khaleda Zia, met the editors of national dailies and news agencies in the capital yesterday. She briefed the editors on her party and alliance's stand on the current political situation.

The eight-party alliance meeting under the chairmanship of Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, adopted a number of resolutions. The alliance decided to continue their movement till the government resigns and hands over power to a non-partisan person for holding elections.

Opposition Parties Make Statements on Elections

BK201710 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Jamaat-i-Islami acting amir [chief], Mr Abbas Ali Khan, has reiterated his party's demand for a representative government elected through a free and fair election under a caretaker government. He was speaking at the closing session of the 4-day central majlis-i-shoora [advisory council] in Dhaka today.

The Bangladesh Muslim League Kamruzzaman group has called for starting the system of government before the proposed election. The party president, Mr Kamruzzaman, and secretary general, Mr Atiqur Islam, in a statement in Dhaka today said political parties should arrive at a consensus on the issue as some parties are demanding switching back to parliamentary system, while the government party advocates to retain the present presidential system.

The Nizam-i-Islam Party general secretary, Mr Abdul Latif, said in a statement any objection to elections will hinder the constitutional process. He called for holding elections under a nonpartisan caretaker government.

The Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam has also called for a liberal and flexible attitude by all parties for a solution of the present political impasse. Bangladesh Islami Biplabi Parishad [revolutionary council] also reiterated its demand for immediate lifting of emergency and curfew and restrictions on media.

The Workers Party of Bangladesh has again called for transferring power to a caretaker government acceptable to all the opposition. The party president, Mr Abul Bassar, and general secretary, Mr Rashed Khan Memon, said in a statement today that the government has so far released only a small number of political detenues, including the leaders of the two major alliances. They demanded release of all other detenues without further delay.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh, at a meeting of its central secretaries in Dhaka today, demanded the opening of all educational institutions, including Dhaka University.

The Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bhashani NAP, Fazlul group, in a statement called for an all-party cabinet in place of the present Council of Ministers.

Jatiya Sramik Party Central Committee president, Mr Assad Hussain, and general secretary, Mohammad Zilwar Hussain, in a joint statement urged the workers and employees to frustrate the evil designs of the vested elements who are trying to upset the normal functioning of mills and factories and offices in the name of hartal [strike].

The other parties and organizations who have issued political statements include Ganatantrik Karmi Sibir [Democratic Employees Camp], Bideshi Panna Barjan Sangram Parisad [Ban on Foreign Goods Council], Bangladesh Sachibalay Karmachari Sangjukta Parisad [Bangladesh Secretariat Employees Joint Council], and the Coordination Council of the Bars Association.

Opposition Parties Call for Fair Elections

BK211706 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Bangladesh Muslim League has again called for immediate withdrawal of emergency, release of all political prisoners, and restoration of freedom of the press to help create a favorable environment for holding free and fair elections in the country. In a resolution adopted at an emergency meeting in Dhaka today, the party said the present political crisis has brought the national economy on the verge of destruction.

Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan [opposition movement] has urged the people to come forward for the establishment of an Islamic government to overcome the current impasse. In a statement in Dhaka today, it said this country could (?succeed) only through the path of Islam.

Bangladesh Islamic Biplabi Parishad [Revolutionary Council] has said a free and impartial election can only help maintain the current democratic system in the country. The party, in a press release in Dhaka today, also called for the release of all political prisoners and reopening of all educational institutions, including Dhaka University.

Jatiya Janata Party said only parliamentary democracy can establish the sovereignty of the people. In a statement in Dhaka today, the party said it stands for progress and stability of the country under a democratic government.

Jatiya Sramik [Workers] Party has said violence, terrorism, arson, and anarchy cannot deliver any good to the people. In a press release in Dhaka today, the party called upon the workers to carry out their normal work tomorrow and the day after in the greater interest of the country.

The leaders of the Bangladesh Chemical Workers Employees Federation have said the opposition program are causing untold sufferings to workers, day laborers, and rickshaw pullers. In a statement in Dhaka, they called upon the workers to continue their work tomorrow and the day after.

Other organizations, including Bangladesh Jute Press and Baling Sramik Karmachari [Workers and Employees] Federation, Bangladesh Jana Sadhin [People's Independent] Garment Sramik Federation, and Bangladesh Rickshaw Sramik Oikyo Parisad [Employees United Council] have also called for carrying out their normal work tomorrow and the day after.

Ershad Delivers Speech to Subdistrict Leaders

BK201648 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad says the upazilla [subdistrict] system introduced by his government has succeeded in achieving the objectives of developing the rural areas of the country. Addressing the upazilla parishad [council] chairmen in Dhaka today, the president declared that the upazilla system has come to stay and the people would not allow any conspiracy against it.

About the call given by some political leaders for the resignation of upazilla chairmen, the president said none of the 460 chairmen has responded to the call. This demonstrates that these political leaders have no support among the people and their politics is devoid of any aim and objective. The upazilla chairmen have ignored the call for the resignation as they are aware of the misdeeds of these elements when they were in power. The rural areas were neglected, and people suffered when they were in power in the past. But the situation has changed after the introduction of the upazilla system with the rural areas as the centers of development activities, he added. The upazilla system has already contributed considerably in the economic growth of the country. He hoped that the future generation would derive immense benefits out of this system, which would act as a solid infrastructure for development.

The president said the upazilla chairmen should work hard to strengthen the system so that all 460 upazillas can be developed into self-reliant units in every sphere. He urged the chairmen to continue their development efforts to improve the standard of living of the rural people. He said the upazilla chairmen would serve their full tenure of 5 years.

Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Ministry of LGRD [Local Government and Rural Development] and Cooperatives Shah Moazzam Hussain said as elected representatives the upazilla chairmen are directly responsible for the overall development of their respective areas and well-being of the people. He described the upazilla system as an epoch-making event.

Government Releases 6 More Political Prisoners

BK201456 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1430 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The government has ordered the immediate release of six more political prisoners. An official announcement said that the released leaders are: (?Aminul) R.S. Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Sarit Kumar Das of the Communist Party of Bangladesh; Masood Ali, Azizul Haq, and Mohammad Abdul Hai of Jamaat-i-Islami; and (?lawyer) Abul Abbas.

India

Gandhi Asks LTTE To Surrender Arms

BK211614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement provides the basic framework for the settlement of all the legitimate grievances of Sri Lankan Tamils. Addressing a mammoth public meeting at Pudukottai on centenary celebrations of the veteran freedom fighter Satyamurti, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the agreement has achieved much more than what the Sri Lankan Tamils have ever asked for. It has been accepted by all Tamil militant groups except the LTTE. He said the LTTE has not been ready to come into the democratic framework and it has been responsible for most of the militant killings and for the massacre of hundreds of innocent people.

Mr Gandhi said we cannot allow the agreement to be held to ransom by a small, unrepresentative group. We cannot sacrifice all that has been achieved for the Tamils just because of one small group's unreasonable demands.

The prime minister said it would be seen that Tamils in Sri Lanka get their full rights. He said every single group was consulted and involved in the process, but the LTTE has gone back on every promise it had made. He declared that the LTTE must stop all violence, surrender arms, and must fall in line with the agreement. Only then can they be involved in any peace process in Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi added.

USSR's Petrovskiy Explains INF Stand

BK181645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Petrovskiy, has said that the recent INF treaty signed between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev has opened up possibilities for resolving regional conflicts in the world. Mr Petrovskiy arrived in New Delhi as a special envoy of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, to apprise the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Indian leaders on the deliberations at the Washington summit.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, Mr Petrovskiy appreciated the role of the six-nation initiative on nuclear disarmament and said all countries should cooperate to eliminate the weapons of mass destruction.

Defense Minister Meets With Soviet Counterpart

BK211645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, Marshal S.S. Akhromeyev, today called on the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, in New Delhi and discussed with him matters of mutual interest. Marshal Akhromeyev is heading a 10-member military delegation which arrived this morning on a 5-day visit to the country. The minister of state for defense, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, the three service chiefs, and senior Defense Ministry officials were present at the meeting.

The Soviet delegation included Admiral Y.P. Grishin, deputy chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Foreign Economic Relations.

Earlier, Marshal Akhromeyev laid a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti [immortal light for the soldiers].

Besides visiting some defense establishments during its stay in the country, the delegation will also pay a visit to Agra.

Soviet Economists Arrive for Meeting

BK211701 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] A 3-day meeting of the Soviet and Indian economists began in New Delhi today. The four-member Soviet delegation is led by Dr I.D. Ivanov, the deputy chairman of the State Commission for International Economic Relations of the Soviet Council of Ministers. Professor Sukumoy Chakravarti—chairman, Economic Advisory Council—is leading the Indian delegation. The discussions will cover the problems of trade commodities, the external debt crisis, rising protectionism, and other issues of multilateral economic cooperation. The consultations between the eminent economists of the two countries is taking place in the context of the decisions of the New Delhi summit of November last year between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev.

USSR Signs Metallurgy Cooperation Protocol

BK181710 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to expand their cooperation in many areas of nonferrous metallurgy. A protocol on this was signed at the end of the meeting of the Indo-Soviet working group on nonferrous metallurgy in New Delhi today. The two sides also considered the feasibility report for the construction and operation of a bauxite mining complex to be set up in Andhra Pradesh. This unit is to export 2.3 million tons of bauxite annually to the Soviet Union. They also discussed cooperation in the production of aluminum-silicon alloys. The working group on nonferrous metallurgy was formed by the Indo-Soviet joint commission on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Paper Opposes Restricting 'Soviet Option'

BK21134 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 87 p 13

[Editorial: "Arms for an Ally"]

[Text] If New Delhi had any illusions about its ability to influence American policy of aiding Pakistan at India's cost these should be abandoned with the U.S. Senate clearing the roadblocks to resuming aid to Islamabad. Only the naive believed that the U.S. decision to suspend aid to Pakistan from October was a serious move. When the 105-day suspension due to end on January 15 was effected it did not amount essentially to an aid stoppage. Supplies under the five-year arrangement entered into in 1982 continued to be in the pipeline. The new six-year $4.02 billion aid package will be available to Pakistan exactly when it needs the assistance. The U.S. Administration used the Parvez affair to block aid to Pakistan, because it needed to satisfy the vocal section of American opinion which insists that nuclear proliferation must not go unpunished.

India has duly lodged a protest with the United States equated with Pakistan. This is understandable although New Delhi's anger is quite futile. It is necessary for India to realise that it has only friendly relations with the United States, but it is not an ally of America, as Pakistan is. Thus Washington is only being generous if it equates India with Pakistan, it can with some justification have a tilt towards Islamabad. In fact, it does have such a tilt, even though it is not visible except when India mounts a propaganda offensive, such as against Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Pakistan strategically is crucial for the United States, and Washington will pay any price to keep it on the right side. By contrast, India's strategic value for the US is at best marginal. The reality of the American perception of South Asia should be comprehended fully if a stable and predictable Indo-U.S. relationship is to be built up.

The lesson from the U.S. Senate move is that no illusions about enjoying a leverage against Washington should be entertained, because India does not have any. India's failure to prevent periodic accretion to Pakistan's armed strength, courtesy Washington, had imposed a heavy burden on New Delhi, and forced it to an unenviable dependence on the Soviet Union for defence purchases. Just when India was beginning to diversify its sources of defence needs, comes a U.S. move that may have the effect of pushing India back to Russian clutches.

Even if it is argued that the United States will not deny India defence-related technologies, the question must still be asked whether the American source can be considered as reasonably dependable. Such doubts are not baseless, since Washington has been seen to change its position unilaterally, as it once did over Tarapur and has now done about technology transfer. The latest U.S. move has proved to be a double-edged weapon; it has imposed on India the heavy burden of matching the new military might that Pakistan will acquire soon: and it has made the prospects of Indo-U.S. defence collaboration uncertain. There will thus be little sense in restricting the Soviet option, especially when the United States thinks nothing of promising India a carrot but presenting it with a stick.

Iranian Minister Seeks Stronger Relations

LD202202 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 20, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi proposed establishment of four joint commissions between Iran and India, in two separate meetings with his Indian counterpart Vengala Rao here today.

During the meetings the Indian minister said the Iranian delegation would further promote bilateral ties in addition to strengthening relations between Third World countries. "The visit can be considered as a turning point in the two countries industrial ties particularly the heavy industries sector," Rao noted. Iran's preliminary delegation according to Rao has so far reached agreements in different industrial branches with India.

In response Nabavi expressed regret that bilateral economic cooperation between Iran and India has not expanded enough in spite of the common outlooks the two countries share concerning independence from superpowers, non-alignment as well as economic self-sufficiency. "Our policy is based on expansion of relations with independent countries on the world particularly India," he added.

Nabavi also invited his Indian counterpart and expert delegations to visit Iran, saying his visit here aims at promotion of mutual industrial ties, export and import of industrial and technical goods as well as expansion of cooperation in research, manpower training and educational areas.

Four joint commissions will start talks as of Monday on education and research, manpower, industrial and engineering cooperation, and industrial exchanges. The Iranian delegation arrived here Friday.

Remote Sensing Satellite Scheduled for Launch

BK220333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] An operational remote sensing satellite is to be launched in the first quarter of next year. The director of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Mr (Dixitulu), told newsmen in Hyderabad that the satellite will be sent to the Soviet Union next month for prelaunch tests. The data available from this satellite will find application in the fields of agriculture, forestry, hydrology, geology, coastal studies, environment, and urban development. The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, Prof U.R. Rao, said in Ahmedabad yesterday that Indian space science and technology is now engaged in research for applying it in long-term and short-term measures for drought management.

Paper Warns U.S. Against Nuclear 'Linkage'

BK190821 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 87 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 7—The nuclear power programme right from the beginning has been so large a component of the entire atomic energy programme that there was not an iota of doubt why so much effort was being spent on research and development. There are other Asian countries with several nuclear reactors for power generation, even industrially more advanced countries than India, like South Korea. But their reactors have been built by the French, Americans and others. Only India, outside Japan, has the capability in Asian countries, of constructing a series of nuclear power plants including their fuel all on its own.

Perhaps the best evidence that India is not keen on nuclear weapons comes from certain new directions its atomic energy research is taking. The long term perspective of nuclear programme was based on a Phase I of thermal nuclear power plants using natural uranium-heavy water, Phase II of fast breeders using plutonium derived from the spent fuel of thermal reactors and Phase III using U-233 derived from thorium. The second phase reactors (fast breeders) would be used to convert thorium to U-233.

Research is already on to short circuit this process. Particle accelerators under construction called Pelletrons are to find out whether it would be feasible on a large scale to directly convert thorium into U-233 without having to use the blanket of a plutonium fuelled reactor's core. If this experiment succeeds, India can as well skip the Phase II. The fact that India is trying to do that shows that she is not keen on extracting plutonium for its own sake.

India has to depend ultimately on its thorium resources for nuclear power generation as its uranium supply is limited and the quantity of uranium in the ore is poor (only 0.06 per cent while each 235 MW [megawatt] thermal reactor needs 40 tonnes of uranium). If there is a similar nuclear perspective plan for Pakistan, this has never been revealed.

For India and the United States, the recently worked out agreement on high-tech sales is one of the most important developments to put the relations between the two countries on an even keel. But it is more necessary for the US than for India.

The reason is obvious: Though all high-tech is not available from all industrialised nations, much of it could be obtained, sufficient for India's requirement. If there is a political will in India, the rest could be developed or we could make do with what is available. If India has the talent to develop a plutonium reprocessing and purification plant all by its own efforts or build a fast breeder with its own materials, nobody need underrate its technical capabilities.

The development of maraging steel, the setting up of an indigenous plant for the rocket fuel UDMH, the mastering of the xiline cycle, the industrial base of many petro-chemicals, including parallel development of some of the closely held technologies, will convince anyone that India is not going to international markets with a begging bowl.

There was also sound commercial reason for the United States for entering into that agreement for sale of high-tech. The prestigious US magazine "Business Week" wrote recently quoting the General Electric's India operations chief: "The trick to doing good business in India is not just importing but transferring meaningful technologies so that India can make its own products." The emphasis is on technology; those who want to do business must come out with technology—even the Japanese have learnt that lesson in India.

"Latin America is a disaster, and most companies are becoming disillusioned with China but India has emerged as quite a high priority", American Express Bank's top official is quoted as having said. There is also the Indian technology pool which is a special attraction—it is economical for American companies to do high-tech research and development here, than in US itself, according to Business Week.

Every industrialised nation sees today in India huge market opening up—$50 billion in telecommunications alone. Indian market is of a 100 million middle class now. It will be 250 million by 2000 AD, even if the rate of growth is low. As Business Week has pointed out, US share of the foreign investment market in India has been only a fourth of the Rs 120 crore in 1985 and with British, French, West German, Japanese, Swedish, Norwegian and other industrialised nations too eager to share the growing Indian market, the United States cannot afford to fall far behind. "Barring diplomatic cataclysm, India could emerge as an invaluable US economic partner", Business Week said.

Any linkage of high-tech sales with the "good behaviour" on nuclear programme would neither force India to fall in line nor would secure for the United States the high-tech market that is opening up in India.

Paper Hits Gandhi Party's Reorganization Plan

BK201020 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Dec 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Window-Dressing"]

[Text] The Congress (I) President, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has finally given up the pretense of democratising the party functioning through genuine organisational elections. He has now come up with a novel plan to replace the existing party committees all the way up from the village level with new ones. The plan, mooted at his meeting with the ZICC (I) [expansion unknown] general secretaries the other day, is a mockery of the system of a free and fair exercise of the party members' right to vote to constitute the party committees. What is now envisaged is in effect an elaborate system of nomination.

According to the Congress (I) General Secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra; Chaturvedi, [Pradesh Congress Committee-I] the Chief Ministers of Congress (I)-ruled states, the PCC (I) Presidents, party MPs and MLAs [Members of Legislative Assemblies] and DCC [expansion unknown] (I) Presidents will submit a list of at least 15 names each of active Congress workers in each block of their respective constituencies.

The party headquarters in New Delhi will then go through these lists. The scrutiny will be carried out with the help of various party functionaries within whose jurisdiction the listed members fall. The idea obviously is to check the loyalties of these members. The next important step will be the despatch of AICC (I) observers to the state capitals where the block and district Congress (I) Presidents will be chosen. The choice will be on the basis of a "consensus" among the leading party functionaries who, needless to say, hold party offices because they have been handpicked by the existing party bosses. After the presidents of the lower party committees are thus nominated, the central party office-bearers will hold "consultations" with them to name the members of the respective commmittees. The final step will be the election of the AICC (I) delegates. The party high command is obviously anxious to take every care to ensure the "reliability" of the delegates who will be asked to go through the motion of electing the AICC (I) office-bearers.

The Congress (I) is today a moribund organisation at least in part because no elections have been held in the party for as long as 15 years—a record, surely, for the ruling party in any democratic country. First, Mrs Gandhi ran the organisation with the help of those immediately around her. For the last two years, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has strengthened his control over its affairs in a similar fashion. Regular elections in accordance with the party constitution have been postponed from time to time on the pretext that the problem of bogus membership was creating difficulties. Recently a committee headed by Mr Uma Shankar Dixit recommended a plan to get over this difficulty and to hold organisational elections soon. Thislrecommendation, too, has now been given the go-by.

Instead, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has sought to put a gloss on the existing system of running the party through nominations. Apparently, he has considered it unsafe to implement even the Dixit Committee's report which has diluted the electoral element and thus requires an amendment of the old constitution of the party. His sense of uncertainty might well have become more acute as a result of the successful campaign launched by Mr V.P. Singh, especially in UP [Uttar Pradesh] against malpractices of all kinds in the party as well as in the Congress (I) governments. While deplorable, the new attempt at window-dressing can surprise no one. Members used to graduate in the erstwhile Congress because of the political and constructive work they put in. No one does such work today. There is no way therefore to sift the non-bogus from the bogus members. A leader therefore cannot risk elections till he can ensure that his bogus members can swamp his rivals' bogus members.

Iran

U.S. 'Still Refusing' To Protect Foreign Ships

LD211646 Tehran IRNA in English
1632 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] London, Dec. 21, IRNA—American naval warships operating in the Persian Gulf have been officially escorting foreign-owned tankers, but are still refusing to protect them.

According to Lloyd's List shipping gazette Monday, two vessels, identified as the Danish-flagged supertanker 'Karama Maersk' and the Norwegian carrier, 'Happy Kari' were reported under U.S. guard going through the Strait of Hormuz at the weekend.

Both tankers were subjected to rocket attacks but there were no reports of any attempted intervention by the United States.

American helicopters were said to have circled the 'Karama Maersk' after it was hit Saturday. The British Defence Ministry confirmed that one of its warships nearby was also radioed for help but declined to assist.

The Danish tanker was fully laden with Saudi Arabian crude destined for America and spokesman for the owners Moller, was quoted confirming that the United States had provided an escort but did not name the American warships involved.

The 'Happy Kari' was also reported hit by rocket-propelled grenades in the Strait of Hormuz Friday. Shipping sources said a fire broke out but no casualties were mentioned.

Foreign tankers including disguised vessels are commonly seen sheltering under America's convoy operations but have never previously been confirmed as claiming official U.S. protection.

Until now Washington has always insisted that its massive naval presence provides security cover for only U.S. flagged ships, including the 11 re-registered Kuwaiti tankers.

The U.S. fleet has frequently been evidenced backing away when a foreign tanker has come under fire and the latest admission does not suggest any changes in its rules of engagement that will reduce merchant seamen's contempt for America's partial behaviour.

Khomeyni Answers Letters on Media Programming

LD211825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Following two separate queries from Mohammad Hashemi, the managing director, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ferdowsipur, a member of the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision, on foreign films or domestic productions, and such serials as "Martyr of the Desert," "Mirror," "Masses," and the transmission of sports programs on wrestling and soccer, his holiness the imam—may his shadow long continue—has responded to both letters. Imam Khomeyni stressed: Watching such films and plays is no impediment to religion, and many of them are instructive.

Leaders on Palestinian Protests in Israel

Montazeri Delivers Speech

LD211417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] We begin our reportage with remarks made by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri this morning at the end of his extra-curricular theology lecture.

In his speech, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories and the support expressed by the world's Muslims and deprived masses for this revolutionary move. He then called on all the world's Muslims and the oppressed march toward Friday prayer centers all over the world and declare their solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian Muslims and all oppressed and deprived masses of the world.

The deputy leader, pointing to the occupation of the dear Jerusalem by colonialists, recalled that as a result of collaboration and coordination between colonialists in Britain, the United States and the West, the plan to establish a Zionist state in territories belonging to the Palestinian Muslims was drawn up and finalized. Their objective was to create a cancerous tumor—Israel—in the heart of Islamic countries in order to fulfill their aims and colonialist intentions. The Soviet Government and most of the subservient leaders of the Islamic countries were also involved in this conspiracy. Every time the Muslims tried to start a movement, the Soviet Union acted as a break and halted it. Most of the mercenary leaders of Islamic countries opposed any uprising. 'Abd al-'Aziz, the former ruler of Saudi Arabia, was one of the leaders who signed the document for the occupation of Palestine. In the end, their actions led to the occupation of the territories belonging to the Muslim Palestinians, including dear Jerusalem. Thus, the rights of the Muslim nation of Palestine were undermined.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that the issue of Jerusalem is an issue for all the world's Muslims. All strata, classes, and religions are responsible for this great injustice. It is quoted by the esteemed prophet in the Book of Traditions that if one goes through days and nights without sparing a thought for the social and political issues of Muslims, if one hears the cries of an oppressed human being and does not respond, then he is not a good Muslim. That is why the great leader of the Islamic Revolution put forward the slogan "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine" at the beginning of the revolution. Today, the oppressed and deprived Palestinian Muslims have risen to eliminate oppression and restore their rights. However, they were attacked and killed by Israeli soldiers after Friday prayers. They are clearly demanding assistance from all the world's oppressed Muslims, from you and me. They are calling for help and support and, according to our religion, we cannot leave their cries of oppression unanswered. We cannot remain inactive.

Therefore, as a theology student and one of the oppressed and deprived masses, as the son of a farmer and a Muslim clergyman, I ask all Muslims and the oppressed of the world, regardless of their religion, grouping, race, nationality, and country, to respond to the call of the oppressed Muslim revolutionary Palestinian nation, to express their solidarity, and to declare their hatred toward colonialists, the United States, Israel, and international Zionists who have done such a great injustice to the dear Jerusalem, the Aqsa Mosque, and the Muslim Nation of Palestine. Moreover, they should do whatever they can, financially and spiritually, to help the movement and the Palestinian uprising.

The least one can do is to take part in a march next Friday from different centers toward Friday prayer centers, quite independent of any organization, group, party, religion, or nationality. Everyone should chant crushing slogans against oppression, colonialism, Zionism, apartheid, and the United States on this worldwide march, and thus announce solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine and all the world's deprived and opporessed masses. We must show disgust and hatred toward the enemies of Islam, Muslims, colonialists, oppressors, and world Zionism.

Ayatollah Montazeri said: Followers of other religions, such as Christians and Jews who are oppressed in the world, were also subjected to aggression by the Nazis and other hegemonist rulers of Europe. They, too, can and should express their hatred for oppression and world Zionism, as the Israeli Government is not the government of the Jews. Israel was founded according to one sect, one race, and one colonialist policy. In the course of Islam's history, Jews and other followers of holy books have lived in Islamic countries and under the protection of Muslims in safety and security.

The deputy leader asked all clergymen, Friday and congregational imams, religious seminaries, revolutionary foundations and organizations, scientific and promotional centers, the Voice and Vision organization, writers and the press to take his message to all Muslims and oppressed people of the world in order to hold this march and this expression of solidarity with particular impressiveness. God willing, the Palestinian Muslims who, having lost hope of getting anywhere by diplomatic and political negotiations, will soon find their way and understand that what was taken by force can be regained only with force, uprising, and selflessness, and will soon become victorious and regain their lost and usurped rights.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Support

LD220914 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanani hoped that all Muslims of the world especially ulema support the movement of Palestinian nation in the occupied lands.

Speaking during the open session of Majlis Tuesday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that the uprising has inspired hope to the Arab world especially Islamic groups.

Criticising reactionary Arab countries, he said that Palestinians have greatly suffered from the inefficiency of Arab governments especially the reactionary ones and said now the Palestinians shoulder the burden of the campaign against the Zionists as there is no other way for rescuing Palestine.

He expressed hope that with unsparing support of all Muslims the great Islamic and popular movement of Palestine would continue.

The Majlis speaker also thanked Ayatollah Montazeri for inviting people to hold marches and support the oppressed people of Palestine. He wished prosperity and health for the ayatollah and hoped that people would carry out these tasks successfully.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also praised the ground forces of the Islamic Republic for their recent infiltration operations which led to the liberation of some parts of the country.

During the operation, 30 sq. kms of Iranian territory on the eastern bank of Do'iraj River, northeast of Faqqeh theater, in the southern borders were liberated early Monday.

Velayati Condemns 'Massacre'

LD211123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Following the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine and the ruthless massacre of Muslims by Zionist forces in the occupied territories, Foreign Minister Velayati sent two separate messages this morning to Sharifuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the ICO, and Witness Mangwende, foreign minister of Zimbabwe and chairman of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Nonaligned Movement.

While condemning the torture, arrest, and massacre of the innocent people of Palestine by the regime occupying Jerusalem, these organizations are asked to support the freedom-seeking struggles of the Muslim and oppressed people of Palestine, in accordance with their most important principles, to offer them a helping hand, and, with their material and spiritual support, to prevent the continued aggression by the racist and Zionist regime in the occupied areas.

The message says: The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its own part, as a Muslim and nonaligned country, while endorsing the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people against the Zionist regime, has constantly sympathized with the Muslim and fighting people of Palestine, and supports the realization of their aims to create an independent country, determine their own fate, and gain independence.

Karrubi Visits Wounded

LD212055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The subject of our next story is Mr Karrubi's visit to Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian patients hospitalized in Tehran, to which I draw your attention:

Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation, visited a number of Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian wounded this morning. He announced: As in the past, and even more so today, the activities of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation are at the service of the families of martyrs and the self-sacrificing from Lebanon, Palestine, and other Islamic lands.

Mr Karrubi expressed his grief at the harm done to Muslim revolutionaries and fighters in Lebanon and Palestine, and voiced hope that they will be successful in driving out the occupiers of Jerusalem. He said: The Islamic revolution belongs to all Muslims, and the Islamic Republic feels it has a great responsibility and mission here. In the same way, the Martyrs Foundation does not belong solely to Iran's wounded and the families of Iranian martyrs. Rather, the facilities of this foundation are at the disposal of all Muslims and revolutionaries fighting against infidels and international arrogance in every corner of the world. Of course, Lebanese and Palestinian revolutionaries enjoy a special priority. For the same reason, the activities of the Martyrs Foundation officially began in Lebanon and that country's Palestinian camps in 1982-83 on behalf of those who have been martyred or wounded. Frequently, the injured and their families are invited to travel to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Karrubi added: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Martyrs Foundation, with its organized and well-regulated administration, continue to place the institution's extensive services at the disposal of the families of martyrs, POW's, the missing, and the injured from Lebanon and Palestine. To this end, through coordination with the Palestinian Embassy in Iran, and direct contact with the mujahidin in Lebanon, the needs of such families are always met.

As for the treatment of Lebanese and Palestinian wounded, Mr Karrubi explained: The injured will receive medical treatment either in Lebanon or in Iran, or will be sent to European countries at the expense of the Martyrs Foundation. [passage omitted]

Musavi Comments on Fiscal Policies, Israel
LD202228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 20 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Musavi, one of the subjects discussed at today's cabinet meeting—the main one—was the national budget for 1988-89. Could you tell us what the government's economic policies will be next year, including inflation control?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We discussed two important questions at our session. One was economic, and the other was political. The political matter was Palestine, which is the most important in the Muslim world. We examined this at length. Mr Velayati submitted a report, which was followed by a discussion involving the rest of the brothers. They were all united in the belief that this Islamic movement, which will also be the one to save the Palestinian people and Jerusalem, should be strongly supported. We also discussed the government's concern for those wounded in this tragedy, this popular uprising, which should in some respects be called a blessed and auspicious movement. First of all, Israel should be pressured to prevent these massacres. All Muslims should take some action here.

One form of pressure should be to treat the injured and evacuate them from the occupied territories, where they are clearly facing martyrdom at the hands of the Zionist regime. It was said that the Government of the Islamic Republic will accept the job of caring for the wounded. Of course, this is separate from all the military and political moves we feel Islamic governments should make to extirpate Israel as a cancer.

In addition, we reviewed Note 29 of the budget, which concerns the country's foreign exchange policies. Well, it is no secret that we have had some foreign exchange problems. The manipulation of our foreign exchange income is one form of pressure used against us. They thought they could use it to defeat the Islamic system by bombing our ships and oil installations. They tried other types of pressure as well, which have been exerted on us in this area with the goal of affecting our foreign currency income and, as such, influencing the war and our economic problems, too.

I believe that the control of this has been one of the government's successes. First of all, thanks to its planning, it managed to emerge from this situation with pride. It also made use of these difficult circumstances to draft long-term plans for the country's economic independence. We have to decide where to use this limited amount of foreign exchange, and determine how to reduce our current expenditure and manage our various sectors. This will allow the country and the revolution to stand on their own two feet and permit us to continue the war from a position of strength. Our revolutionary Majlis has taken note of this matter, as well.

Thus, if you look you will see that some of the most detailed discussions took place regarding Note 29. We examined these policies today. Just like last year, the budget committee again [words indistinct] how these policies should be presented to, and approved by the cabinet.

On the basis of the lessons the government has learned and the experience it has gained, we in the cabinet expressed hope that our policies on the use of foreign exchange will be decided at the beginning of the year. It usually takes some time. This subject arose in 1981-82, and has gradually improved. Today, we in the cabinet said that this year, the government has greater room for maneuver and greater ability to plan on foreign exchange issues. Therefore, God willing, it can perform its duties toward our sacred defense, which continues in the best possible way, and adopt policies in other economic fields, which will result in a quicker end to our dependence on foreigners. At the same time, it can cater to the urgent and important needs of the public as well.

[Reporter] Mr Musavi, one point of great economic and fiscal importance is the tendency to invest in destructive economic sectors. What are the government's policies to prevent this practice or to provide guidance for those using these funds in constructive fields?

[Musavi] That question is very broad, but as far as foreign currency is concerned, let me say that most of our foreign exchange is spent on our sacred defense, basic goods, and production priorities. We have reduced the service sector from 2.2 billion rials to $800 million [currency units as heard] in the current year, which is a huge saving by the government. We will continue cutting this figure. However, as for the government's overall policies or any others we may pursue, be they in rials or foreign exchange, high priority is given to the production sector, whether in the allocation of funds or foreign currency facilities, or in the government budget. They are all designed not to encourage the service sector, as our service sector, our commercial sector, is bloated. The more we can improve the production situation the better the country's economic situation will be.

I believe the guidance which the government received from his holiness the imam—and, truly, without that guidance there would have been some fundamental problems in the country this year—is directed toward precisely the same goal. After all, and this is particularly true in time of war, when there is a potential for higher inflation, an absence of control, especially where the people's basic necessities are concerned, would lead to a great growth in investment in this field. That is only natural due to its great profitability. However, government policies have eradicated this problem. We have fixed the prices of certain goods, as they have been

unprofitable for the wealthy. It has become quite clear to them that the tens of millions of tomans they invested there will not bring them any profit for many months but, rather, will have costs for them. We have seen this in the cost of cold stores, and so on. They have brought their goods to market and we have seen that some of the prices are even lower than the ones the government announced under this policy. There are certain goods whose prices have been cut by more than half. This is something the government is following and it has the effect you referred to, that is, it prevents investment in unnecessary or harmful projects.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Musavi] You are welcome.

Larijani Views UN Efforts To End Gulf War

LD201629 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jarvad Larijani by unidentified correspondent on the "Holy Defense" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God. Dear listeners of the "Holy Defense" program, Mr Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for international and economic affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has recently returned from a trip to the United Nations. We asked if he would be so kind as to give us some of his time for a conversation. Mr Larijani, please let me thank you for accepting our offer to participate in the program and for sharing some of your time with us. Could you summarize the latest political efforts made by the United Nations to end the imposed war and the obstacles that stand in the way? Could you give us an overview?

[Larijani] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. As for political activities concerning the imposed war, we feel that the United Nations and the Security Council have a duty that is crystal clear and completely obvious: They must crush aggression. That is quite clearly stated in the UN Charter and has been emphasized in various resolutions, as well. Therefore, we believe that the United Nations and the Security Council should play an active role in fulfilling this commitment, which conforms to the charter.

Obviously, the UN's record in the performance of this role has not been very good. In general, the United Nations is a weak and slow body. Of course, the reasons for its weakness are clear: There are different powers in the United Nations and the Security Council using their influence and trying to impose their own wishes on the organization. In fact, they should be in favor of having the organization advance in line with a specific principle. We saw the same thing in reference to the war; that is, the United Nations and the Security Council have shown no initiative that would include the crushing of aggression.

In terms of the recent resolution, UN Resolution 598, the basis of our work with the UN secretary general is this: We want the United Nations and the Security Council to take a course that would lead to a just approach to the crushing of aggression. Those actions that had a contrary aim and helped the aggressor, who has been defeated, must be changed. That is our view of the process, so how can we not persevere?

[Correspondent] Yes. Mr Larijani, could you give us some more details about the obstacles you just mentioned?

[Larijani] There are two fundamental obstacles preventing the United Nations and the Security Council from acting to crush aggression and implement justice: One is the aggressor Iraqi regime itself, and the other, more important, obstacle is the specific policies pursued by the United Nations, the United States, and several other countries. The United States has no real interest in the establishment of peace and the crushing of the aggressor. You could say that aggression in the region is not a bad thing for the United States, so why should it try to crush it? The Americans are very worried about an Iranian victory in the war, that is, they are worried about the removal and the definite, open, and final defeat of an aggressor. They prevent actions designed to establish justice and crush aggression on various pretexts. In fact, they are working to create a process of pressure against Iran in international forums around the world. These are the significant obstacles standing between the UN secretary general and success in the conduct of the UN's legal role in accordance with its charter. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Larijani, do you have anything to say about an arms embargo against Iran through the United Nations?

[Larijani] There are two important points here. One is whether our approach to Resolution 598 is motivated by fear of an arms embargo, or whether we have a principled position, according to which we assess a given resolution and take a stand. (?Moreover), if such a project is carried out, how successful will it be and what will we do? As for the question of our stance on Resolution 598, we (?are certain) that our principled position is correct. With every resolution, we try to see if it projects the true situation or not. That is, any program for the region should be conditional on defining existing conditions—here we are facing a blatant aggression. The Iraqi regime launched its bloody aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and it should take responsibility for all its consequences. That is the root of the problem. Therefore, any proposal on the war should be accompanied by a method of implementation based on justice. Justice should be central to it.

In sum, any proposal should contain guarantees for the future. We cannot just wait for the Iraqi regime to commit a fresh act of aggression. The Iraqi regime has shown that whenever it finds the strength and feels itself powerful, it turns into an attacker and commits aggression. Thus, how can a region be secure with the existence of such a regime? There must be a sensible guarantee of regional security. Any proposal that incorporates these elements would be assessed accordingly; we would analyze its strengths and weaknesses.

In terms of these points, Resolution 598 is weak. However, it does contain one or two very hazy points from every standpoint [as heard]. Due to our respect for international organizations and assemblies, we have cooperated with the secretary general. This will allow him to flesh out these very sketchy points, that is, with his own proposals and ideas, to compensate for the shortcomings of the resolution. In fact, the secretary general's project has strengthened the resolution, compensated, so to speak, for these weak points. Thus, we (?see) that as one of his preliminary steps, the secretary general included the identification of the aggressor in his project.

As such, our position on Resolution 598 is the product of an assessment based on principle. It is not, as some may think, the result of our having been threatened, warned, for instance, that the next resolution will bring with it an arms embargo. We have been embargoed already. How many weapons do other countries sell us anyway? We should count the number of countries that sell arms to Iraq and see (?how much) they sell. We have been under an economic embargo throughout the war. Thus, we are not a nation that fears embargoes. Nor are we afraid to reject the unprincipled position of the Security Council.

As far as an arms embargo is concerned, the United States has, from the start, tried to build a process of pressure against us through Resolution 598. It has no interest in implementing it or establishing peace in the region. An arms embargo or the threat of one is one of these policies—a stage in this policy. Will an arms embargo be successful or not? I can tell you with confidence that it will have no greater success than the United States has had with its military expedition in the region to protect oil tankers and the countries it shields. It is not something that frightens us.

Of course, it will have an effect. If they want to take additional steps with their arms embargo, an embargo that already exists in practice, if they want to raise this at the United Nations, even in a superficial way [beh shekl-e suri], we will make a decision about finalizing the war. Indeed, that will be a decision about which they may have failed to make the necessary forecast. In that case, we will decide to end the war with our resources at the appropriate time, and we shall do so, God willing, with reliance on God. [passage omitted]

Musavi Congratulates New PRC Acting Premier

LD220655 Tehran IRNA in English
0643 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi sent a message of congratulations to new Acting Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China Li Peng Monday.

Musavi expressed hope that during Peng's term in office Iran-China relations will grow further.

Swiss Envoy Meets Velayati, Delivers Message

LD220652 Tehran IRNA in English
0640 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, 22 Dec, IRNA—Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Heinrich Reiman met Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday and submitted him a message from the Swiss foreign minister, Pierre Aubert.

In his message the Swiss foreign minister expressed satisfaction with expanding relations between Tehran and Bern and called for further broadening of bilateral ties.

The message also expressed concern about deployment of chemical weapons and bombardment of civilian areas in the war.

Dr. Velayati thanking Swiss foreign minister's message expressed satisfaction with the relations between Iran and Switzerland in the recent years, and expressed hope that it would continue to develop on more solid grounds.

Heavy Industries Minister Leaves for India

LD181423 Tehran IRNA in English
1410 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA—Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi heading an expert delegation left here for New Delhi Friday for talks on bilateral technical and industrial cooperation with Indian officials.

In an interview minutes before his departure Nabavi said the two countries are to discuss imports and exports of industrial pieces, construction of production units, power generators and refineries. Exchange of specialists for further acquaintance with each other's technical potentials would also be reviewed, he added.

Nabavi said during the visit he would confer with the Indian prime minister, parliament speaker and four ministers. Iranian delegates are also to inspect some factories and scientific and cultural centers in four Indian cities, the minister pointed.

He noted that a letter of understanding would probably be inked in the visit which would be annexed to the previous letters.

UN Debt Motion Passed Over U.S. 'Protests'

LD211759 Tehran IRNA in English
1730 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Despite U.S. protests, economic committee of the United Nations General Assembly passed resolutions on the foreign debts of developing countries, special assistance to frontline African states and preservation of the Palestinian people's rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran played a leading part in drafting the resolution.

The above was announced here today by Foreign Ministry advisor Mojtaba Arastu, who participated in the UN economic committee meet recently.

Arastu commenting on the foreign debts issue told IRNA that although many discussions were held in this regard, no solid steps were taken to avert this crisis, and the ratio between the debts borrowed by the developing countries and their exports has increased from 148 percent in 1985 to 189 percent in 1986.

He further said, though the Islamic Republic has no foreign debts, the hardships that other countries have to go through necessitates that an authentic and respectable solution be sought that requires cooperation and collaboration between the borrower and the lender and between other international organizations.

He also proposed that the UN and other affiliated bodies, instead of carrying out lengthy discussions and wasting exorbitant amounts, should make more practicable plans in order to help the developing countries, especially those who are less developed.

Qom Deputy on Al-Asad's Role at Arab Summit

NC221011 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1545 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Speech by Deputy Sadeq Khalkhali of Qom at a Majlis session in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The great, zealous, and unprecedented response by the oppressed and heroic Iranian nation to the decrees of the Supreme Council for War Support has foiled all the concoctions, activities, and plots in the Persian Gulf, and has overcome all those we saw during the hajj and the Amman conference. This reply has proved that our nation's heroism—a heroism which is like the sword of the Prophet and is sealed with the blood of martyrs—cannot be confronted. All these activities are like a spider's web. They cannot stand up against this nation. The fact that Mr Hafiz al-Asad went to the conference was most regrettable; they have yet to offer a satisfactory justification for his presence. The same thing happened with Anwar al-Sadat, who gradually moved toward the Camp David accords. During the Amman conference it was obvious that they wanted to attract Israel to their side and oppose the Iranian nation. The day will come when they will openly recognize Israel and form an alliance with it against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This situation exists, but they do not want to admit it.

Whatever the case may be, we are subject to the orders of the velayat-e faqih, the imam of the ummah, and we cannot disobey those orders.

Afghans To 'Neutralize' Superpower Deals

LD211535 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1107 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Station commentary: "The Continued Struggle of Afghanistan's Muslim People and the Neutralizing of the Intrigues of East and West"]

[Excerpts] According to reports, Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries, who have rejected the Kabul regime's cease-fire, launched a fierce operation this week. The action has been described as some of the heaviest in the 8-year occupation of Afghanistan. News agencies note that hundreds of government soldiers have been killed, and that Kabul is filled with the wounded troops of Najibullah's regime. Further reports indicate that fighting rages in Khowst, and that, despite their extensive attacks in the region, the joint forces have been unable to break the siege of Khowst imposed by Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries. [passage omitted]

Afghan parties and groups have announced their rejection and condemnation of any talks on reconciliation or the fate of Afghanistan. Protests by the mujahidin and other Afghan forces on the eve of the Geneva talks, as well as their emphatic rejection of any reconciliation concerning Afghanistan's fate, show that the only final and decisive way to solve the Afghan problem is the evacuation of the occupying forces. This must be accompanied by the recovery of the Afghan people's right to self-determination, and the establishment by the country's Muslim people of an independent and nonaligned government beyond the bounds of Eastern and Western spheres of influence.

Afghanistan's fighting Muslims have repeatedly condemned attempts by the Kabul regime to form a government of national reconciliation with the participation of Zahir Shah, to declare a unilateral cease-fire, and to convene the Grand Assembly in Kabul recently. They consider these moves, which have been planted in fertile soil to reach a conciliatory end to the Afghan problem, as treacherous.

Today's stepped-up struggle by Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries and operational leaders at fronts inside the country, as well as their proud and righteous defense, are particularly important. After all, Muslims in that country fully recognize, and are able to neutralize any plot by the superpowers to strike deals behind their backs. In addition, they are about to remind us that they will persevere in their fight to reach their goal of driving

the alien forces out, and thus attain the right to decide their own fate. Political analysts see this as a looming problem for the great powers in their efforts to make a deal on Afghanistan.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

1,000 Troops Killed

LD211833 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Some 30 square kilometers of Iranian soil was liberated by Muslim combatants of Iran in the operations launched north of Faqqeh in the southern fronts at 05:30 (02:00 GMT) Monday, according to Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters today.

At least 1,000 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and several others captured in the operations, of whom 15 were transferred behind the fronts.

Battalion 2 of Brigade 86 of Iraqi Division 32 was completely wiped out and Battalions 1 and 3 of the same brigade sustained casualties and damage by 60 percent.

The Muslim combatants also inflicted substantial losses on Brigade 51 and Commando Brigade 66 of Iraq's division 32, in the operations started in the general region of Zobeydah, Sunday.

Some seven tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed in the operations launched east of Do'iraj River, northern Faqqeh where a considerable amount of Iraqi military hardware and equipment was seized by the Iranian combatants.

In the meantime, said the headquarters, the Ba'thist troops attempted five futile counterattacks beginning 16:30 (13:00 GMT) today, after being caught off guard in the region early Monday. However, it added, the Muslim combatants smashed all the counterattacks inflicting heavy casualties and damage on them in the operational region.

A great number of Iraqi soldiers were drowned in Do'iraj River, while trying to flee, and many others were killed in their own mine fields.

Enemy Units Destroyed

LD220917 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Zobeydah Operational Region, Dec. 22, IRNA—In Sunday thrust of the Iranian forces in Zobeydah region in Iraq Brigades 703, 28 and 60 from Divisions 20 and 29 of the Fourth Corps of Iraq were partly to mainly destroyed, said a commander of the operations here Tuesday.

More on the operations launched in retaliation of Iraqi mischief in the Persian Gulf more than 1,500 Iraqis were killed. [sentence as received] The blitz of the Iranian forces took the enemy by surprise, he said, adding that the Iranian forces passed through barriers and mine fields and surrounded Height No. 160.

On objective of the operations, launched in a 25 sq. km. area, he said that almost all Iraqis stationed on Heights 133 and 151 were killed and the remaining escaped the area.

The whole operational region is filled with corpses of the Iraqi forces, he added. The operation was another blow on the Iraqis in which tens of Iraqi bunkers and fortifications were destroyed and heavy blows were dealt on Iraq's Fourth Army, he concluded.

Communique No 3,057

LD211632 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Iranian Air Force carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Sunday to monitor movement of foreign vessels in line with international regulations, said a military communique released here Monday. Despite warnings from U.S. fleets, the planes continued their mission, it added.

Communique Number 3057 of the Joint Staff Command said Iranian naval forces carried out an effective check on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz "over the past 24 hours". The communique said that Iranian Muslim combatants continued strengthening their defence positions throughout the fronts and subjected Iraqi troops to their heavy tank and artillery fire inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy.

Activities and movements of Iraqi forces were suppressed in southwestern fronts, said the communique adding the Muslim combatants also shelled enemy motorized columns in Sumar region and around Mehran, in the western fronts.

The communique said some Iraqi soldiers were killed in Kani-Sheykh front while they were establishing their positions.

Exchange of artillery fire raged on sporadically in eastern Basra region being somewhat more intense in Khusk and Bubiyan, said the communique. The Muslim combatants disrupted Iraqi tank movements in Nahr 'Anbar and Eynkhosh operational regions, silencing Iraqi tank fire and damaging several enemy tanks, it added.

Iran's gendarmerie forces destroyed eight bunkers and a munitions depot of the Ba'thist forces, killing or wounding some Iraqi troops in southern fronts, said the communique concluding that some Iraqi armoured hardware was also damaged.

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD221138 Tehran IRNA in English
1029 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Iranian fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Al-'Amarah operational region, in three sorties Tuesday morning.

According to a Joint Staff Headquarters statement the Iranian fighters inflicted heavy damage and casualties on Iraqi units in the area and returned safely to bases.

Kurds Attacks Villages

LD221324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] According to Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, the peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan have launched two separate operations in the past few days. The actions took place in the villages of (Ogal) in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province and Tawakkul in Kirkuk Province. During an attack on a position held by a unit of the Khafifah Forces, which are the part of the 42d Battalion in Kirkuk, a large number of Saddamist soldiers were either killed or wounded, and 21 were captured. In the course of these two actions, an enemy tank and an engineering vehicle were completely destroyed. The peshmergas also seized a radio and a number of light and heavy mortars with all their ammunition.

This report notes that over the past few days, the Kurdish peshmergas staged two ambushes on the Chamchamal-Sulaymaniyah road in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, and on the Irbil-Pirmum Dagh road in Irbil Province. Four Iraqi Ba'thists were killed, including an officer, First Lieutenant Akbar Milah. Some light weapons were also seized.

By infiltrating Irbil, Rawanduz, and Pirmum Dagh, the peshmergas killed or wounded more than 12 Ba'thist agents and captured a command vehicle together with a quantity of light weapons and ammunition.

Pakistan

Child's Accidental Death Sparks Violence

BK220241 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] According to a press note from the district magistrate for Central Karachi, a child was injured by a bus in Paposhnagar yesterday. He was taken to the hospital, where he later succumbed to his wounds. Violence then broke out in the area and an angry mob hurled stones at vehicles and police patrols. The press release pointed out that a policeman was injured as a result of some shooting by unidentified individuals. The mob also set fire to the furniture from two local banks. The situation has been brought under control. The press note said that speeding and other forms of reckless driving will not be tolerated.

Economic Cooperation Meeting Held With USSR

BK190630 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
11 Dec 87 p 7

[Bureau report]

[Text] Karachi, Dec. 10: A meeting of Pakistan-USSR Trade and Industry Committee of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) was held today at the Federation House, Karachi with O.G. Gudkov the new assigned Deputy Trade Representative of USSR in Karachi who was accompanied by the Trade Representative of USSR N.V. Masukov. The meeting was largely attended by the businessmen/industrialists of Pakistan who got the opportunity of discussing trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

The Vice-President of the Federation Dost Muhammad Jamalbhai presided and welcomed the trade representatives of USSR to the meeting. He expressed the hope that with the signing of the agreement of cooperation recently between the National Chambers of Commerce of the two countries our mutual trade and economic relations will get more developed.

S.M. Inam, Chairman of the Committee, welcoming the guests laid more emphasis on promotion of two-way trade. He said Pakistan, being a developing country, needed assistance from its friendly industrialised and advanced countries and since Soviet Union was one of them it could assist Pakistan in a much bigger way. He hoped that Soviet enterprises would join hands with their Pakistani counterparts to develop industrial projects under the Pakistan's sixth Five Year Plan. Mr Inam also informed that the incentives and facilities offered by Pakistan to foreign investors were most attractive.

Replying to the welcome address Mr Masukov, trade representative of USSR in Pakistan, said that today's meeting was marked with the signing of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty by the Soviet Union and abolishes medium-range missiles on the first day of a summit aimed at achieving even more sweeping arms cuts. He said that Soviet Union always desired to maintain world peace and to extend all possible cooperation and assistance to the developing countries. He said that his country was already helping Pakistan and was prepared to provide sophisticated technology, know-how, and specialists for the industrial projects required to be set up in Pakistan.

O.G. Gudkov, Deputy Trade Representative also spoke on the prospects of trade between Pakistan and USSR and expressed the hope that with the signing of the agreement of cooperation and passage of time the trade

relations between the two countries will further widen and will get a boost. He assured that Soviet Union was prepared to extend all possible assistance in Pakistan's investment development.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Says Terrorism To End 'Soon'

BK201625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has declared that terrorism will soon be wiped out from the southern parts of the island. He said the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and police have been given full power to crush these subversive elements in the south in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Mr Jayewardene was addressing a large gathering of officials and the ruling United National Party workers at a guarded school building at Hambantota, 240 km southeast of Colombo today. He said a special bill will be introduced in Parliament shortly to indemnify the police, military personnel, and public officials against legal actions while carrying out this battle against terrorists in the south.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that Mr Jayewardene told the gathering that he will soon give the people a chance of election. Before that, persons who want to do away with parliamentary democracy and the Constitution will be dealt with, Mr Jayewardene said.

Reportage on Fighting Between IPKF, LTTE

LTTE Attack Repelled

BK200815 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0807 GMT 20 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 20 (LANKA PUWATH)—Ten terrorists were wounded in an abortive attack on the Batticaloa police station last night. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that a gang of about 50 LTTE terrorists had launched an attack on the Batticaloa police station at 2100 hours (local time). Rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapons from the direction of the market and the railway station, a perimeter of about 200 metres away from the police station. [sentence as received]

The Indian peace keeping force [IPKF] and the police had counterattacked with rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapons. The terrorists withdrew at 2300 hours (local time) as they were geting the worst of the exchanges. Official sources said 10 LTTE cadres were wounded by rocket propelled grenades. There were no casualties among the IPKF and police.

13 LTTE Men Killed

BK211630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Thirteen LTTE men were killed, 21 apprehended, and 2 injured in two different search operations by the peacekeeping force [PKF] in the Jaffna Peninsula during the last 24 hours. Some rifles and ammunition, including bombs and mines were recovered. The search operation was carried out by the PKF in the Urelu area and near Chavakachcheri. In Arali and (Malakum) areas, the LTTE shot dead five civilians, including two old women. Official sources described this savage brutality of the LTTE toward civilians as an indicator of its desperation in the Jaffna region.

8 LTTE Men Killed

BK221558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 8 LTTE men were killed and 34 apprehended in the PKF operations in the northern and eastern provinces in the last 24 hours. One jawan [soldier] of the PKF was also killed. One officer and five jawans were injured. Disclosing this in New Delhi this evening, an official spokesman said that the organized resistance by the LTTE in the Jaffna Peninsula is crumbling. They are now operating in small groups. But there is no coordinated operation under a command.

In an incident in the eastern Batticaloa sector, one fiberglass boat suspected to be carrying arms was sunk north of (Pannaikuda) killing five LTTE men. The spokesman said that a company of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] women has landed in Jaffna to help the PKF.

Opposition Seeks Clarifications on IPKF

BK181401 Colombo SUN in English 9 Dec 87 p 3

[Statement by opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike in Parliament on 8 December]

[Excerpt] Speaker E. L. Senanayake presided when Parliament met at 9.00 a.m. yesterday. Leader of the Opposition [Anura Bandaranaike making a statement in Parliament:

Mr Speaker. I had given notice yesterday to the Secretary-General of Parliament, the Prime Minister and yourself, that I will be raising today, under Section 23 (2) of the Standing Orders of Parliament the following matters of great public importance from the Prime Minister. These matters that I raise today has caused great consternation amongst all Sri Lankans across the political divide.

Furthermore these matters have caused a grave sense of fear that Sri Lanka has lost her independence and sovereignty whatever the Government might say to the contrary. The nation requires answers to these growing fears and apprehensions.

The first matter that I wish to raise is regarding a number of statements made by the General Officer commanding the Indian Forces in Sri Lanka, Maj General Harikirat Singh, in Jaffna and published in the Madras based Indian Daily 'HINDU.' He had said "We (the Indian Forces) take orders from the Government of India. We will stay here, time is of no consequence." Maj Gen Singh is also reported to have said "that the Indian Army will not go from Sri Lanka until the Tamils are satisfied and their aspirations are met."

These statements made by the Commanding Officer of the Indian Forces are extremely serious and completely contradict the stated position of President Javewardene and his Government. The seriousness of Maj Gen Singh's utter he had responded to a question that had specifically referred to a statement made by President Jayewardene very recently that the "IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] will complete it's operations against the Tigers very soon and leave." [sentence as published]

The people of Sri Lanka are asking the legitimate question: Whose orders are obeyed by the IPKF—is it the orders of the President of Sri Lanka or the Government of India. There clearly appears to be a dichotomy. The IPKF as long as they are on our soil must take orders from the President of Sri Lanka—unless the North and the East are considered a Province of India.

What does President Jayewardene and his Government intend to do about this serious statement. It is not enough to sweep it under the carpet by saying that we are making inquiries as to whether he really said it and then forgetting all about it. The Government of Sri Lanka must obtain a statement from the Indian Prime Minister that the IPKF will take orders only from the Sri Lanka President and from no one else. I would like the Prime Minister to make a clear statement regarding the position of Sri Lanka Government.

The second matter that arises from Singh's statement is that the Indian Army will not leave Sri Lanka until the Tamils are "satisfied" and their "aspirations" are met. This is whilst the President states that the IPKF will leave "very soon." These contradictory statements have caused great consideration, who is to judge that the Tamils are "satisfied" and when they are so "satisfied"? Who is going to find out that the Tamil "aspirations" have been met?

I would like the Prime Minister to explain to this house whether the Indian forces will be asked to leave after disarming the Tigers or whether the Government of Sri Lanka has no control over when the IPKF leaves our country.

The other matter that I wish to raise is the news item appearing in the 'SUN' newspaper yesterday saying that the "Indian Government has been holding discussions in New Delhi that Sinhalese refugees displaced from Trincomalee be persuaded to return since India believes that they can become easy prey to Sinhala elements opposed to the Peace Accord if they continue to live in other areas of the country."

The Indian newspaper the HINDU of Saturday, December 5 accuses the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] of formenting trouble amongst the Sinhala refugees and criticises the Prime Minister R. Premadasa and SLFP leader Ms. Bandaranaike for calling for the lifting of the ban on the JVP.

The sole interest of the Indians seems to be to send back the much affected Sinhala refugees to the Eastern Province so that they will not become "easy prey" to those who oppose the accord, especially the JVP. Hundreds of Sinhala refugees who were hounded and driven out of their homes in Trincomalee have told of their harrowing experiences at the hands of the Indian forces. How can the Sinhala refugees trust the IPKF again.

Will the Prime Minister give an assurance to this House that the Sinhala refugees will not be sent back, if they do not so wish, without ensuring that the Sri Lankan army will constantly and regularly provide them with all the security they require?

The final matter that I wish to deal with is the massacre of 25 Muslim civilians by the IPKF in the Batticaloa area last week. According to the UNP's 2nd MP for Batticaloa, who is a Muslim, the President has called for an immediate inquiry into the incidents and that the inquiry will be full and fair. This assurance has been given to the MP in the presence of the two Muslim Ministers in the Cabinet A. C. S. Hamid and M. H. Mohammed. The 2nd MP for Batticaloa, had told the ISLAND newspaper of December 5, that "the IPKF had allegedly marched into Ottamawedi and started attacking people after a clash with the LTTE is the information received by me."

Meanwhile the Deputy High Commissioner of India, Nirupen Sen, had stated to the press that he is unaware of any such inquiry. Does the Sri Lanka Government require the permission of the Indian Deputy High Commissioner to conduct an inquiry into what has transpired on our own soil? What is really the position of the Govt. of Sri Lanka? Can they or are they in a position to conduct any inquiry about the actions of the IPKF which says they will take orders only from the Indian Government?

Is the Government in a position to conduct a full and fair inquiry into this outrage in Ottamaweddi and publish such findings to the people in full? Or, will the Government attempt to cover up the incident in order to please

the Indian forces? I have just been informed by the third MP for Colombo Ceptral that a Muslim religion school in Attamamewedddi has been completely raised [as published] to the ground.

I would like the Prime Minister to answer these queries as the people of Sri Lanka are awaiting a full and honest disclosure of the correct position that their country has been placed in after the signing of the Javewardene-Gandhi accord. [passage omitted]